

2

LOMBARD

Being fair to the British people

BY C. GORDON TETHER

PROMINENT BRITONS making speeches abroad are obviously under a special obligation to choose their words with care—if only because their pronouncements are calculated to make a particularly marked impact on listeners who, for the most part, will have only a limited acquaintance with the subject. But it seems to be a very unsatisfactory form of protocol that allows our illustrious politicians to make "generic" criticisms about their countrymen provided they stop short of attacking fellow occupants of the corridors of power.

One of the main themes of Mrs. Thatcher's worthy perambulation of the American scene last week was that the principal cause of Britain's fall from economic grace was to be found in its people's addiction to "soft options" and that the best hope for the future accordingly lay in their coming to realise that this had led them into a trap.

It is, of course, convenient for the politicians to lay the blame for the British sickness at the door of the entire nation through "generic" fault-finding. The reality is that if things have gone so badly for us, it is to a large extent not because of the attitudes adopted by the British people but in spite of them.

For a nation can do no better than the quality of its governmental performance permits. And, as Mr. John Pardoe, the Liberal MP, was pointing out on

the TV a few days back, Britain has been afflicted during the past decade or two with just about the worst government in the world.

It is customary to interpret the fact that output per man is so much lower in Britain than in Japan, Germany and the U.S. to mean that their manpower works much harder than ours. The contrast is more often explained by the availability to their workers of advanced capital equipment which puts them in a position to produce more than ours—usually without actually putting in as much physical effort as their British counterparts have to do.

The British people as a whole are, however, in no way to blame for this situation. As is now coming to be recognised, it is to a significant extent attributable to the persistent failure of Whitehall to ensure that the immense capital market we have on our own doorstep in the shape of the City of London puts sufficient emphasis upon ensuring that the requirements of the home side are adequately catered for.

Not to blame

For the rest, it can be set down to the official pursuit of an economic strategy which, because it places such a high priority on the promotion of London as an international financial centre, has condemned the country to a stop-go policy of economic life and death, to a much slower rate of advancement than countries not so encumbered. This again, is something for which the nation at large is obviously in no way to blame.

Even in the matter of the wages-price spiral, it is the rulers rather than the ruled who are responsible for Britain's record being so much worse than that of other major countries. It was the decision of the Tory Government to unleash free collective bargaining on coming into power in 1970 that set the great wages explosion of the past five years in motion. And it was the insistence of the present Labour Government early last year on repeating this mistake that gave it additional impetus.

Yet the clear message emerging from opinion poll readings throughout this period was that the public was altogether in favour of firmer action being taken against wage excesses.

And it is important to understand that it is essential that the world of large employers be aware of the truth in these matters. If it is encouraged to believe that our human raw material has become sub-standard, it may well decide that there is little hope for us. It is well aware, on the other hand, that there is a way of remedying poor government.

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

No problems for Prima Magi

JOHN SUTCLIFFE, whose team has produced a steady flow of winners throughout the summer, appears to have fine chance of landing with Prima Magi today's £5,000 John Sutcliffe Trophy Nursery (4.0) at Lingfield commemorating his late father.

This attractive Divine Gift filly, who followed up a neck victory over Lady Cromwell here in May by running Hey Presto to the same distance in the valuable Acorn Stakes, a Epsom Derby meeting, has been running respectably in smart company recently without making the frame.

This afternoon's seven furlongs, which she is attempting to beat, first time ought to present no problems for Prima Magi, who will be carrying only 7 st 10 lb, and I hope to see her prove she has lost none of her early season vigour by running out an appropriate winner at the expense of Lester Piggett's mount Mellon.

Even if Piggett (who may, yet, be absent from the race) on October 2) cannot take the John Sutcliffe Trophy, he seems likely to have at least one winner. His best prospect, in my opinion, is

the once-raced Eugene in the Nutfield Plate (3.30). Fulke Johnson Houghton's chestnut King Emperor filly, a 5,000-guinea yearling purchase,

Salisbury running ought to enable Eugene to get off the mark. Another promising filly having the second race of her career, Trigamy from Captain Ryan Price's Inform Findon establishment which sent out Marquis de Sade to win here yesterday, may chase the selection home.

A second likely winner for Piggett, who is rapidly approaching the century mark in England for 1975, is Limerick Hills in the Hartfield Plate (2.30). A length runner-up to the Italian Derby winner Orange Star, to whom he was selling to come off 9 st 10 lb, Windsor over three weeks ago, Laurence Hills, a stable-mate to Never Return, whom Piggett partnered to victory in this race a year ago, appears as a sound bet to open his account for the campaign.

Another Blewbury representative, Regal Step, appeals as the likely answer to the Burton Agnes Stakes (3.45) at Beverley. Kant's filly, which has been twice to the top of the lightly raced Pavement Artist, a filly trained by Harry Thomson Jones for himself.

SALEROOM

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

Six point plan to beat premium

THE ROW between the two biggest art salerooms in the U.K., Sotheby's and Christie's, and the art dealers, over the introduction by the salerooms of a 10 per cent. buyer's premium received a further impetus yesterday when a meeting of the British Antique Dealers Association approved a six-point plan to fight the premium, which was introduced this month. The plan is similar to that agreed on Monday by the Society of London Art Dealers.

Both groups decided against a total boycott of the salerooms by the dealers, but instead proposed by a minority of their members, but accepted that dealers might organise ad hoc boycotts at certain sales, similar to those earlier this month.

Other points agreed are that the dealers should, when appropriate, send their own goods to auction houses not charging the buyers' premium and advise their clients to do the same; to publicise that the combination of the 10 per cent. sellers' commission with the buyers' premium means a true overall rate to the seller of about 18 per cent; to make it known that most dealers sell on consignment charge rates much lower than 18 per cent.

The dealers are going to promote their own willingness to buy outright at prices equal to the combination of the knocked down price and the buyers' premium, with a consequent gain to the seller, and to ensure that the auctioneers keep to their stated intention of charging the premium at a flat rate, and to investigate any breach of this undertaking.

The fact that the dealers have not intended the boycott of the salerooms must mark a marginal victory for Sotheby's and Christie's, but the likelihood that the dispute will drag on must harm the reputation of London as an art centre and could unsettle prices in the saleroom.

of the family home of the Earls of Seafield at Cullen House, Banffshire continued yesterday with a sale of pictures which realised £128,037 in the morning session. The prize item, portrait of Charles Grant, Viscount de Vaux, by Jean Baptiste Marie Petrie in 1781, a rare portrait by this artist, was retained by the family, although the bidding reached £21,000 well within the pre-sale estimate.

Most other lots exceeded their estimates. An interior of a kitchen by Antoine de Lorme was bought by a private buyer for £5,775, within the forecast, and an unusual pear-shaped chocolate urn of 1749 went for £3,780.

Olympic fund seeks £250,000 tax repayment

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

BRITAIN'S 1976 Olympic appeal fund will ask the Government to give it back the £250,000 tax which the Olympic committee is likely to pay in the course of its fund-raising activities over the next few months. The only way the tax can be repaid is as a direct grant.

The committee, launching its appeal yesterday, said that it would have to raise £250,000 in order to produce the £500,000 net, since corporation tax would

have to be paid on the £250,000 which, it was hoped, would come from promotional campaigns for consumer products.

The only way a direct grant was possible, said the Olympic committee. "We will have to make a formal approach as soon as possible."

Britain will send about 475 competitors and officials to the summer Olympic Games in Montreal in July and the winter competition in Innsbruck in February.

GARDENS TO-DAY

BY ROBIN LANE FOX

Now is the time to think of buying bulbs

IF YOU want a pretty garden which is not much trouble and not absurdly expensive, you ought to buy bulbs and seeds to buy them now. Write for a bulb catalogue. Broadleaved Gardens, Barr House, Bishop's Hill, Taunton, issue an excellent list of small bulbs which are charmingly introduced and closely controlled by their young proprietor, Lord Skelmersdale. The Jager Nurseries, at Marden, Kent, list almost every other kind of larger bulb which you could possibly want, especially when you digest the price of their more unusual varieties.

There are hosts of other sources of bulbs which you can have often hit upon unusual tulips at very reasonable prices. Maybe, too, you might actually open your all-colour mail-order bulb catalogue this year if it has continued to arrive unwanted.

truly conspicuous in January and February. The best white, to my mind, is Crocus biflorus, a white which is slightly marked with pale blue and which is noticeably scented if you stoop down to it. Its common name is the Scotch Crocus, a curious name as you would not find it growing anywhere in Scotland. I presume it first appeared in a Scottish garden, although it has been known to gardeners for at least two centuries. It is very hardy, free flowering and reliable. Its colour multiplies quickly, but it does not set seed so do not waste time in trying to collect it.

Certain to flower

I like to combine it with the best of the so-called "blues," the familiar Crocus Chrysanthus, a colour which shades from lavender-white to sky blue, beautifully set off by a yellow middle and the bright orange stamens which distinguish the best sorts of crocus species.

Another, the Crocus Chrysanthus, thus make an easy ABC in a catalogue: 20 of each should not cost much more than a pound and I know no better value for money among early spring flowers. They are certain to flower properly.

Daffodils and the like are more varied. No two tastes will agree. The true old Pheasant Eye narcissus (listed often as a Poeticus variety, with the further name Recurvus, rather than the slightly less good Arctus) seems to me to be essential for its scent and its late season, not showing its recurved centred flowers until May.

The wild Lent Lily is equally essential for the early part of the year. In between I would be satisfied with the early daffodils, especially Silver Chimes, February Gold and W. P. Milner. These fit so neatly into the flower beds in a small garden where the bigger varieties can look too heavy.

They are excellent in window boxes and I am sure that they should all use them more often. Demand will bring their prices down as they are not difficult to increase, only difficult to popularise.

More conventionally, I would choose the tall early narcissus more delicate than the enormous flowers of the Dutch yellow varieties and the bulbs are low surrounded and an orange-red centre. Duke of Windsor and

Tudor Minstrel for white surroundings and yellow or apricot centres and Mount Hood as the cheapest and toughest all-white Daffodil.

If you want a large conventional yellow daffodil I have had flowers of unsurpassable. It is too much of a good thing for isolation in a flowerbed, but if its green-yellow is toned down by a green background and not shown up by the bare earth it is a tolerably spectacular thing.

The mention of the word "daffodil" usually captivates a gardening audience and there is no doubt that the scent and the clusters of small yellow flowers on the ordinary Jonquilla are extremely attractive. Maybe because I have hitherto only had room for them in a dry south-facing bed they have not maintained themselves as freely with me as I would expect. Buying new bulbs every year is a wasteful practice, and I suspect the Jonquilla needs a somewhat richer and cooler site if it is to thrive.

Omissions are already obvious for most basic collections would like a pink flowered daffodil, let alone a mixed bag of the smaller bulbs, especially the fine value of a mixture of Anemone blanda for a sunny place, pure bright blue Chionodoxa Sardanica for a light soil and of course a few hyacinths for growing in a bowl.

It is too late now to bother with hyacinths, especially prepared for Christmas, but that is no reason for not ordering a few for the gloomier season of February. Bright Blue tends to produce the heaviest and most massive stems of flowers, perhaps too massive for the convenience of householders who cannot be bothered with stakes and strings.

Brighter blooms

I have come to prefer the brighter and sparser flowers of the Roman Hyacinths and the multi-flowering Borah (lavender blue), Rosalie (pink) and Snow Princess. Put four in a bowl of water and only their noses showing; leave them in a cool dark place to encourage roots for six or seven weeks; then bring them gradually into warmer rooms. I promise there are no traps to this, any more than to most other bulbs. If you continue to water them after flowering they will even make a good showing in your garden for many years afterwards.

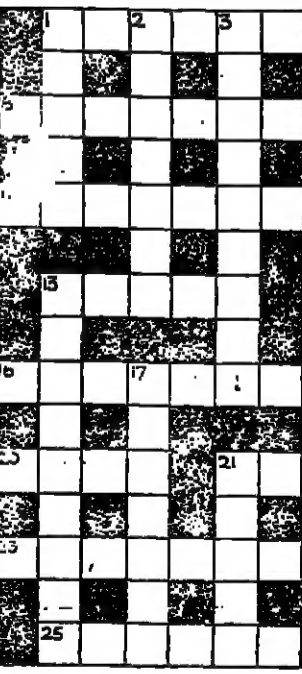
Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white.

BBC 1

8.30 a.m. For Schools, Colleges, 10.15 You and Me, 11.00 For Schools, Colleges, 12.15 p.m. News, 1.00 Pobble Mill, 1.45 On the Farm, 2.00 For Schools, Colleges, 3.58 Regional News (except London), 4.00 Play School, 4.25 Roobarb.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 2,888



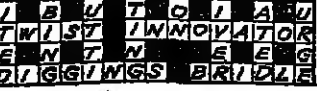
ACROSS

- Shout for attention to prohibition still at sea (4, 2)
- A lot of chicks let in by motorist (6)
- Mistake made by ringleader (7)
- Impress Cockney female getting sick (7)
- Free ticket to assembly will be accepted as adequate (4, 6)
- Give out the time for returning (4)
- Fruit for a chap with zest (5)
- Company has choice of election by existing members (2, 6)
- Gives support for projects (6, 2)
- Can't amend decree? (6)
- Student is quietly developing speech defect (7)
- Staffs have a role that is very different (5, 5)
- Closer to Cork (7)
- Can mend someone into wandering (7)
- Ought first person to allow such a dish (6)

DOWN

- Game for Henry to take on mother (5)
- Meat for archdeacon is being served (7)
- Outer slum repaired when (5)
- Left expert to meet Mr. Singleton (5)
- No Rolle-Royce is in part of camp during food (7)
- Discuss fully and frankly treatment for decayed tooth (4, 2, 3)
- Accumulative reserve of share capital fortune (5, 4)
- Friend getting spliced presents a problem on board (4, 2, 3)
- Go beyond superior film (9)
- Beat a party from top to bottom (3-1-3)
- Facility father upset over parking sign facility (7)
- Scrap sound of Concord (5)
- Artist one takes to New York in wet (5)

Solution to Puzzle No. 2,887



Weather/Regional News

All regions at BBC 1 except at the following times:
Wales—1.15-2.00 p.m. Lion a Llywyd, 5.15-6.00 p.m. Bw-1, 6.00-6.15 p.m. Wales Today, 6.15-6.30 p.m. Heddiw, 7.25-8.10 p.m. The Wonderful World of Wales, 11.20 News and Weather for Wales.
Scotland—10.23-10.43 a.m. and 2.40-3.00 p.m. For Schools in Scotland, 4.00-6.55 Reporting Scotland, 11.20 Scottish News Summary.
Northern Ireland—10.23-10.43 a.m. For Schools in Northern Ireland, 2.58-4.00 p.m. Northern Ireland News, 6.00-6.55 Scene Around Six, 10.45-11.20 Spotlight, 11.20 Northern Ireland News Headlines.

England—6.00-6.55 p.m. Look North

(from Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle). Midlands—To-day (from Birmingham); Look East (from Norwich); Points West (from Bristol); South To-day (from Southampton); Spotlight (from South West (from Plymouth)).

BBC 2

6.40 a.m. Open University, 10.55 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan, 11.00 Play School, 12.00 News, 5.00 p.m. Open University, 7.30 Newsday, 7.45 The Vera Lynn Show, 8.30 An Edwardian Childhood, 9.00 Face the Music, 9.20 Daft As A Brush, 10.45 Electric Folk with Steeleye Span, 11.00 Newswatch, 11.35 Closedown, John Westbrook reads "Rainbow in Exeter," by Christy Brown.

LONDON

9.30 a.m. Schools Programmes, 12.00 Here Comes Mumfie, 12.10 p.m. Pipkins, 12.30 Mr. and Mrs. 1.00 First Report: News, FT index, 1.20 Lunchtime News, 1.30 Inside Space, 2.00 Good Afternoon, 2.30

RADIO 1

247m (5) Stereophonic broadcast, 6.00 a.m. At Radio 2, 7.00 Paul Barnett, 8.00 Tony Blackburn, 9.00 John Peel, including 12.30 a.m. Newsbeat, 10.00 David Hamilton (also on VHF), 11.00 Noel Holmwood, 11.35 "Leaves the latest sounds," 1.00-12.35 a.m. Radio 2

RADIO 2

1,500m and VHF, 6.00 a.m. News Summary, 6.30 Simon Bates, 7.00 Terry Wogan, 8.00 including 8.25 Radio 1, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.30 News, 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.30 News, 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News, 1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News, 3.00 News, 3.30 News, 4.00 News, 4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.30 News, 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News, 9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News, 10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News, 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WORLD TRADE NEWS

French Post Office considers Japanese telephone exchanges

BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

JAPANESE INDUSTRY has come closer than ever before to breaking into one of the most lucrative European markets for high technology—electronic telephone exchanges.

CIT-Alcatel, the only wholly French-owned telecommunications manufacturer—and therefore accorded considerable preference by the French Post Office—has tendered the Japanese DIO stored program controlled (SPC) exchange for its share in France's \$200m-plus crash SPC programme to improve the national network of large local exchanges.

CIT, part of the CGE group which has been at the centre of this year's upheaval in the French electronics industry—along with the Franco-U.S. computer merger—is understood to have reached an agreement with a consortium of Japan's four main telecommunications companies—Nippon Electric, Fujitsu, Oki and Hitachi—which could give CIT's digital switching technology access to the Japanese market.

The DIO is an analogue switching system of the type decided on by the French Government to fill its immediate requirements

until the larger digital exchanges are proven. At least six tenders were submitted before Monday's deadline for the \$200m-plus programme, which involves the supply of 1m. lines from 1977 until 1980. CIT also put in a tender with the new AXE exchanges of its long-standing partner in France, L.M. Ericsson.

Thomson-Brandt, which now has extremely strained relations with CGE, submitted a tender based on the SP-1 equipment of Canada's North Electric.

Philips is also thought to have bid with its PRX technology, and another upset could be a bid from Societe Anonyme pour Telecommunications (SAT) with equipment for such a crucial purpose—France's telephone network is in urgent need of modernisation and expansion.

ITT was the only one of the established French suppliers to have a proven SPC analogue sys-

tem. CIT and Ericsson's French subsidiary having concentrated recently on developing all digital systems. These have been ordered for small exchanges, but the larger versions are more than a year away from full development. In contrast, the Canadian SP-1 and the Japanese D 10 have been installed in quantity for several years. Ericsson's AXE and Siemens' EWS are more recent systems.

Kenya plans colour TV

By John Worrall

NAIROBI, Sept. 23

KENYA AIMS to have colour television in the near future. A feasibility study is being made, and subject to the result two stations may operate at Nairobi and Mombasa.

Zanzibar was the first African country to introduce colour TV, followed this year, by Uganda, whose small system became operative at the OAU summit meeting.

Japan's new yen credit to Pakistan

By Iqbal Mirza

KARACHI, Sept. 23

JAPAN has extended \$23.3m. credit to finance Pakistan's imports. Mr. S. Araki, chief representative of the Export-Import Bank of Japan in Pakistan said here it was the twelfth yen credit extended to Pakistan.

Mr. S. M. Khan, Pakistan ambassador in Tokyo, said the loan was "highly useful" and Pakistan "importers" could utilise it to buy commodities from Japan or any other developing country.

He explained that Pakistani importers were required to float international tenders for deals exceeding about \$200,000 and seek approval of the Japanese bank for imports from developing countries.

Commodities to be imported from Japan under the agreement include insecticides and pesticides, fertilisers, synthetic materials, zinc and machinery. The loan is for 25 years, including a seven-year grace period, and carries a 4 per cent interest.

Mr. Araki said the earlier yen credits carried higher rates of interest but Japan had progressively reduced the rate to make it easier for Pakistan, which was a developing country and deserved financial assistance. The loan would be released for utilisation by the middle of next month when the requisite formalities were expected to be completed.

The loan would lapse after two years if not utilised, but could be extended if Pakistan thought that necessary and if an amount remained unutilised. Pakistan's total \$382m. All have been fully used.

No reprisals by EEC against OPEC-Soames

By Joseph Mann

CARACAS, Sept. 23

THE EEC would "never" consider tariff reprisals against OPEC countries—as the United States did—if the oil-producing nations raised the price of crude oil, Sir Christopher Soames said here.

He said that he had not come to Venezuela "as a salesman" but rather to discuss changing trade patterns in Latin America and their relation to EEC members.

Venezuela, which is now elaborating plans for spending part of the thousands of millions of dollars it has earned in petroleum revenues over the last two years, has clearly demonstrated its interest in diversifying sources of foreign trade and lessening its dependence on the United States for export and import markets. Sir Christopher left here today to visit Peru and Brazil.

IN BRIEF

Suez hits Mombasa

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Honda engines

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Movement of ore

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Indian ventures

Indian new industrial ventures with foreign collaboration have dropped sharply this year to 123 in January-June, compared with 226 a year earlier. West Germany had 33, the U.S. 21, the U.S. 18, Switzerland 19 and Japan 9. Most involved technical "know-how" and only a minority had financial participation.

AMERICAN NEWS

Mr. Ford refuses to cut down public appearances after shooting attack

BY PAUL LEWIS, U.S. EDITOR

WASHINGTON

DESPITE two attempts on his life this month, President Ford still refuses to curtail the next programme of public appearances he has arranged up and down the country over the coming weeks, to win support for his 1976 election bid.

Arriving back at the White House late last night after his lucky escape earlier in the day, in San Francisco, the President said he would not "capitulate to the infinitesimal number of people who want to destroy everything that is best in America."

"The American people expect a dialogue between them and their President," he went on, "and under no circumstances will I and I think no others, capitulate to those who want to destroy what's good in America."

Later the White House spokesman confirmed that the President would not curtail his travel plans, or abandon his habit of mingling with onlookers.

Under present plans, the President is due to return late next month to California, where both assassination attempts were made. On October 23, he speaks in Los Angeles and the next day visits San Francisco again. In the meantime, he set himself up a crowded schedule with visits

to Chicago, West Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Michigan, Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

The immediate reaction to the latest attempt on his life has been one of public dismay and outrage at the return of violence to the American political scene.

Senator Edward Kennedy, whose two brothers were assassinated, said that he was relieved the attack had failed and was "praying there will be no recurrence of such isolated incidents of violence." However, the fact that Senator Kennedy's family is known to hold his safety

in high regard, if he were to run for the Presidency, could only have been heightened by this latest incident.

The attack has naturally also sparked on a fresh debate on the problem of combining adequate security for the President, with the chance to meet ordinary people.

Senator Hugh Scott, the Republican leader in the Upper House, suggested that the President should limit his contact with random crowds "until we can see whether the madness is temporary," and Senator Jack Kennedy, the leading contender for the Democratic nomination, said much the same.

The President is already under pressure to limit his campaign travelling from within his own party and without, on the grounds that he should be working in Washington and this is likely to increase as a result of yesterday's incident.

A more original suggestion came from Senator Frank Church, who is regarded as an interesting dark horse in the struggle for the Democratic nomination. He is already securing himself considerable publicity as chairman of the committee investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

Whatever the result of this proposal, there can be little doubt that the Secret Service, which is primarily responsible for the President's security, is going to have some explaining to do to someone, as a result of yesterday's shooting.

For it turns out that Miss Sara Jane Moore, the 48-year-old white woman who fired a pistol at him yesterday, had been discovered the previous day by the police. She was already on the FBI's Secret Service list of people who might harm the President.

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\$2bn. ne bond off to-day

By Guy de Jonquieres

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Swiss watch exports fall

By John Wicks

ZURICH, Sept. 23

IN THE first eight months of this year, 39.8m. watches and movements were exported from Switzerland, or 28.2 per cent less than the 54.9m. units sold to foreign markets for the corresponding period of 1974. The value fell from Sw.Frs.3.2bn. (\$237m.) to Sw.Frs.1.6bn. (\$231.7m.).

The Swiss watch industry association Federation Horlogere says, world watch production increased by 8 per cent last year to some 228.6m. pieces, including movements, as compared with about 215.8m. in 1973.

Calculating Swiss output as 95 (in 1973 96) per cent of exports, figures for which are known, Switzerland accounted last year for 88.8m. (86.2m.) of the total, thus remaining by far the highest single producer country.

Other major national producers are: Japan 32.4m. (28m.) units; the Soviet Union, estimated at 25.5m. (25m.); the U.S. 23.7m. (22.1m.); and France 16.7m. (15.8m.) units. Among other producers, Federal Germany is shown as having experienced a drop in output for 1974 to 8.7m. (9.7m.) units, while British output rose considerably from 6.1m. to 8.3m. units.

India to reduce steel imports, boost exports

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CALCUTTA, Sept. 23

INDIA PROPOSES to cut steel imports drastically during 1975-76. Mr. M. A. Wadud Khan, Secretary for Steel, has announced. Only special categories not made in India or those made in insufficient quantities will be imported, up to a total value of Rupees 750m. (\$40m.) against imports worth Rupees 1bn. (\$54m.) in 1974-75.

At the same time, India will try to reach an export target of 1.3m. tonnes this year. This revised figure represents an increase of 400,000 tonnes above the earlier target.

U.K. exports to Japan falling

BY DICK WILSON

THE BRITISH export drive to Japan is faltering, but that can not be blamed entirely on the Japanese recession. This is the conclusion of Mr. Reginald Cudlipp, director of the Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute, writing in the institute's quarterly review.

The U.K. share of the Japanese market fell in the first half of this year by 8 per cent, whereas Japan's total imports were only 51 per cent lower. Furthermore, Japan's exports to the U.K. fell by 2.1 per cent to 1.6 per cent. Woolen fabrics, tea, machine

tools and textile machinery sales are notably suffering from the current doldrums of the Japanese market. But Mr. Cudlipp points out some bright spots.

Aircraft engines, parts and launching gear shipments to Japan reached £19m. in the half year, almost a five-fold increase. Internal combustion engines were up by 50 per cent, and tractors (of which 3,312 were sold) jumped 72 per cent to £25m. and 27m. respectively.

The upshot was an 8 per cent fall in British exports to Japan, but a 13 per cent rise in British imports from Japan, resulting in a deficit of £166m. for the six months.

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Mexican Presidential successor chosen

By Alan Riding

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 23

IN AN unexpected climax to months of political speculation, Finance Minister Jose Lopez Portillo was last night chosen to succeed President Luis Echeverria when his six-year term expires in December next year.

Mr. Lopez Portillo (55), who will become the first Finance Minister to occupy the Mexican Presidency since the 1910 revolution, is considered a political moderate, although his success in increasing Government tax revenue has earned him the criticism of both the middle classes and the conservative private sector.

Although Mr. Echeverria, who cannot seek re-election, played the major role in choosing his successor, Mr. Lopez Portillo will now be presented as the candidate of the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party in next July's elections, which he is certain to win.

As Finance Minister, he has concentrated on strengthening the Mexican Treasury. He first sponsored sharp increases in the previously-frozen prices of petrol and electricity, measures which caused the Government to reduce its high subsidies of public utilities and released the necessary resources to allow Petroleos Mexicanos to accelerate oil exploration. Secondly, he raised indirect taxes and tightened up on tax collection in order to reduce evasion.

More recently, he has justified the wide budget deficit and the increased rate of foreign borrowing by arguing that high public expenditure was necessary to avoid a full-scale recession and massive unemployment.

Russia, U.K. propose UN weapons pledge

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 23

MR. ANDREI Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, proposed yet another disarmament initiative to the United Nations General Assembly to-day, calling for an international treaty to prohibit the development, production, manufacture of new weapons and systems of mass destruction.

Earlier this month, he proposed a convention to ban all nuclear weapons tests.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, General Secretary of the United Nations, Mr. Gromyko said that science and technology had reached a level where it was possible to develop and create weapons "even more dangerous" than nuclear armaments, and there were no international agreements now covering such developments.

He proposed a nine-article treaty which would pledge the Soviet Union and the United States to refrain from developing, producing, or testing nuclear weapons, and to refrain from developing, producing, or testing nuclear weapons.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

OPEC expected to raise oil prices by 10%

A price rise of about 10 per cent is expected to be agreed by the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries at their conference beginning here tomorrow.

Over such a compromise, which is expected to be reached only after long and tough negotiations, the price of oil is expected to rise from \$11.50 to \$12.50 a barrel, or about 10 per cent.

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VIENNA, Sept. 23.

Oil-producing countries and developing nations which are to begin a preparatory meeting in Paris on October 11.

That is one argument accepted by most members for being "moderate" on the price question—although some may be cynically waiting for the dialogue to stagnate or falter as a justification for imposing an increase much larger than 10 per cent in the new year.

Against this there is a realisation throughout OPEC that present market conditions and demand for oil—edging up, but still well down on last year's level—are not such as to support any drastic alteration in price levels. In the market, the higher quality crudes have suffered with Iran and Qatar having been the latest to reduce sulphur premiums. The whole issue of quality differentials which can only be changed with OPEC's agreement will almost certainly be discussed at this conference.

Sinai accord is completed

DAVID EGLI

Implementation of the Sinai accord, the main body of which was signed here on September 17, is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Although most of the details of implementation had been settled before the weekend, last minute difficulties arose over the Israeli decision to withhold signature pending Congressional action. While this was accepted by the Egyptian delegation, counterpart concessions were demanded from the Israelis in the body of the documents. The deadline for agreement on implementation was set at midnight on Monday, but by common accord the clock was stopped, and when the UN announced agreement they backdated it to Monday.

The Egyptian delegation offered no explanations for their decision to sign the documents immediately, but it was widely assumed that the intention was to place on Israel the burden of responsibility for any subsequent delays.

GENEVA, Sept. 23.

The first step in the implementation process is the Israeli withdrawal from the Abu Rudeis oilfields in south-western Sinai. This is scheduled to begin within two weeks from the date of signature of the protocol by Israel and must be completed within eight weeks.

It is understood that the documents also provide for a joint Israeli-Egyptian military commission which will begin operating in one month after signature by Israel, and will supervise the entire Israeli withdrawal to new strategic defence lines east of the Mitla and Giddi passes. The redeployment is to be completed within five months.

L. Daniel adds from Jerusalem: Now that the technical protocol has been concluded in Geneva by the Egyptian and Israeli working group the next step is likely to be the passage of an Israeli-bound cargo (board a non-Israeli ship) to place on Israel the Suez Canal. It should take place within the next five or six days.

Israel welcomes Kissinger plan

L. DANIEL

Initial response to the Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's initiative for an informal working breakfast with the Secretary of State.

With no signs of any movement towards talks with Syria on an interim or overall settlement, the Israeli official sources today reiterated their willingness to enter negotiations with that country without any preconditions, such as an informal conference may be the only means of preventing another crisis at the end of November when the UN forces mandate on the Golan Heights will come up for renewal.

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23.

The informal conference would be attended by the Arab states, Israel, the two superpowers and what Dr. Kissinger called "other interested states."

Louis Fares writes from Damascus: King Hussein arrived here today to confer with Syrian President Hafez Assad on recent Middle East developments. Official Jordanian sources said the King "wants to coordinate with President Assad a joint foreign policy in the aftermath of the Sinai agreement."

Beirut is quiet but tense

By Ihsan Hijazi

BEIRUT, Sept. 23. BEIRUT was relatively quiet last night, but remained tense today, as armed bands continued to control the main streets and exits from the capital. The public was again advised by the authorities to exercise caution on the streets.

The relative calm was due to new measures for stabilising the ceasefire arranged on Saturday night through the good offices of the Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam. It was agreed yesterday that President Salehman Frangieh and Interior Minister Camille Chamoun, as Christian leaders, would guarantee that the Rightists under the Phalangist Party would maintain the ceasefire in the areas under their control. In turn, Premier Rashid Karami and other Moslem leaders, as well as the Palestinian commando chief Yasser Arafat, promised to guarantee that the "true" is observed strictly by armed elements on their side.

If the ceasefire holds, then attempts would be made today to form a Committee for National Dialogue to work out reconciliation among the opposing factions and bring life back to normal.

U.K. assurance on Banabans

Sept. 23.

BRITAIN will take responsibility for the problem of Banabans independence claims in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, British Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Edward Rowlands said here today.

Mr. Rowlands was speaking at a Press conference here during a Pacific tour which has included the Gilberts—now heading for independence from Britain—and other Pacific Islands.

Some 2,000 Banabans, now living on the island of Rabi, 1,600 miles from their former home on Ocean Island, part of the Gilbert group, are seeking independence from the Gilbert Islands.

They also claim the British government owes them £22m. in royalties for phosphate mined on Ocean Island by a joint British-Australian-New Zealand corporation.

Mr. Rowlands said today a British court was still considering the situation.

'Sizeable' oil finds off Indian coast

By K. K. Sharma

NEW DELHI, Sept. 23.

SEVERAL NEW oil bearing structures have been located by India's Oil and Natural Gas Commission near the rich Bombay High off-shore tract, where drilling is now in progress to produce 2m. tonnes of crude by the end of next year.

The new structures are between Bombay High and the Western coast of India. Points located for exploratory drilling have been found near Dahanu and Dahanu Islands. A fairly large structure north-west of Bombay High has also been found. Taken together, the off-shore region in the vicinity of Bombay High could lead to sizeable oil-producing fields in India's western continental shelf.

In the meantime the Carlsberg group of companies today started drilling its first well in the legal Basia concession off the shore of Orissa State and hopes are high that oil will be found in the eastern part of the continental shelf.

In a television interview the Petroleum and Chemicals Minister, K. D. Malaviya, was extremely optimistic about reaching not only self-sufficiency in crude but also exporting it in the early 1980s as a result of the new discoveries.

But in the next four or five years India will continue to depend on Arab oil, and Mr. Malaviya sounded a warning to OPEC that a further rise in the price of crude from October would hit developing countries like India the hardest.

A holding company for the nationalised coal industry in India, called Coal India, has been formed with the aim of decentralising functions of existing units. The new company will be in overall charge of the Coal Mines Authority, Bharat Coking Coal, and the Singareni Collieries company.

THE ISRAEL ECONOMY

Catching the tax fiddlers

BY L. DANIEL, TEL AVIV CORRESPONDENT

NOW THAT the agreement between Israel and Egypt has been initiated, the Israeli Government will have to give urgent attention to the deterioration in the country's economic situation.

The main symptoms of this deterioration are the drain on foreign currency reserves which, as things stand now, can only be halted or slowed down by yet further borrowing abroad; low productivity of labour; a poor and uneven tax-raising performance; and unrestrained consumption.

True, Israel's inflation rate, which topped 55 per cent in 1974, has been slowed, with the increase in the consumer price index for the first 7 months of the year officially put at 9.4 per cent as compared with 23.2 per cent for the same period of 1974.

However, a somewhat higher rate of inflation is expected for the remaining five months of this year in view of the tax reform which went into force on July 1, and the cumulative effect of the so-called "creeping devaluation." The Government in June authorised the Treasury to devalue the Israeli pound by two per cent, every 30 days.

The slow-down in the rate of inflation does not reflect any contraction in the buoyant consumer demand. This, coupled with the fact that the profitability of exports has not improved, has led to the continuing diversion of much of output to the home market. Exports rose by only eight per cent in the first seven months of this year, while in fact prices a decline in real terms.

Imports were down by one per cent, but this still left a yawning trade gap of \$1,292m. The eight per cent drop in the deficit is encouraging, but as U.S. economic aid (as distinct from military aid, as well as contributions by world Jewry and foreign investments, are likely to fall below last year's levels, the immediate problem is the prevention of a disastrous fall in foreign currency reserves.

These started to improve following last November's 41 per cent devaluation of the Israeli pound, but have shown a downward

ward tendency recently. The drop for the first two weeks of September alone was \$100m. to \$1.1bn.

How the Government will halt this trend is a key question. The measures taken so far have proved totally inadequate. Industrial production declined in the first half of this year, as did the commencement of new building projects. But as this was not

and even the trade union leadership acknowledged in July that any exceptions to or modifications of the new law would prove fatal to the whole reform, some erosion has already taken place.

These infringements are not yet important in themselves, except in so far as they perpetuate an atmosphere of tax evasion. Large sections of the population do not pay any tax at all and

A recent survey of owners of new villas in a neighbourhood showed that less than half of them had files with the tax authorities, even though they could easily be traced.

accompanied by a rise in the number of job-seekers, let alone unemployed, it must be assumed that yet more of Israel's limited labour force has spilled over into the already top-heavy services sector.

Mr. Y. Rabinowitz, the Finance Minister, in his recent New Year's message promised steps to transfer labour into essential sectors. How he proposes to do this is another matter. Certainly neither tax incentives (nor disincentives) will have any significant influence, seeing that Israel's whole tax assessment and collection system is one of the most inefficient imaginable.

In July the Government enacted the long-overdue income tax reform which, by lowering marginal rates from 60 to even 50 per cent (at or just above subsistence level) to 35-45 per cent, was to act as a stimulus to production and was to do away with the system of literally hundreds of legalised tax-free perks which ranged from "danger money" to payment for fictitious overtime, to "representation allowances."

Not to mention the almost automatic payment for running a car and having a telephone.

This system of perks had proliferated over the years into a veritable jungle, because employers were unable to give their staff any significant pay rise in view of the unrealistic tax structure.

But, while both Government

others pay only a tiny fraction of what they should be paying.

It is reckoned that tens of millions of Pounds sterling are being lost to the Finance Ministry through sheer inefficiency or fear of tackling sacred cows. Among the latter are many enterprises affiliated to the trade union organisation, Histadrut, which show ludicrously low rates of profit but which can be counted upon for stalwart support of the Labour parties at the polls.

Inefficiency in assessment and collection was highlighted inter alia by a recent random survey of owners of new villas in a certain neighbourhood. Less than half of them had files with the income tax authorities. Their files simply did not exist, even though the owners could be traced easily since all house purchases must be recorded in the Land Registry. Nor does any tax collector dare get into an argument with the porters at Israel's wholesale or retail vegetable markets.

The net result is that the Government has and will increasingly have to meet its pressing needs—thus increasing the money supply.

The loss of income resulting from the tax reform was originally put at slightly above £100m. Government might have to take for the period July/September. It was assumed that VAT would

be introduced in October and thus compensate for this loss. But it is now clear that VAT cannot be introduced before 1976. The shortfall in State income is today put at well over £400m. As it is, the Government has increased the money supply by some £150m. since April.

Moreover, the figure will grow further, since each mini-devaluation of the Israeli pound involves the Government in additional subsidy payments on basic commodities whose prices it has been trying to keep stable in order to prevent a rise in the cost-of-living index with all that implies both for wage levels and the Government's obligations (service and debt retirement) on its index-linked debentures.

So far the public, while realising that the purchasing power of its pound is declining steadily, is not alive to the dangers of the situation. With the emphasis on the need for keeping a 1:3 arms "balance" with the Arab countries, little thought appears to have been given by the population to the implications of the very real cutback in U.S. general economic aid, a cutback which can only be compensated for by less home consumption and more exports.

There has been little response to Premier Rabin's call to the nation to work harder and to lower living standards. It seems strange, but it is a fact that a people which is so ready to make any sacrifice in wartime, is reluctant to do a really full day's work in peacetime—even if real peace is still so far away.

This being so, the Government will have to resort to yet further taxation. With Finance Minister Rabinowitz and Mr. Moshe Zaubar, the governor of the Bank of Israel due back from Washington, and the Jewish holiday season ending this month, sizeable increases in purchase tax and excise duties seem an almost certain bet. If these steps do not reduce local demand, the Government might have to take additional steps to encourage exports.

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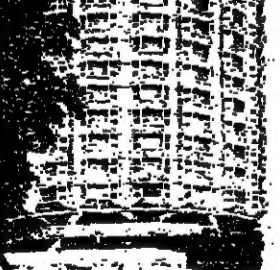
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CAR-MAKING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EAST GERMANY

HELSINKI, Sept. 23.

ity seeks

OSLO, Sept. 23.

Swedish stocks increase

Simonet warns on sea oil

Swiss output falls 17% in second quarter

Austrian GNP down 3% in first half

By Paul Lendvai

VIENNA, Sept. 23.

AUSTRIAN GNP fell in real terms by 3 per cent. in the first half of 1975 compared to the same period last year. Announcing this today, the Institute for Economic Research confirmed the sudden downturn in economic activity.

As recently as last March the Institute predicted a growth of 5 per cent. and in December last year it forecast a rise of 4.5 per cent. for this year. But the psychological impact of the oil-price performance can only be grasped if one recalls that Austria has had an average growth of 6 per cent. during the last five years.

Meanwhile, figures issued by the Central Office for Statistics indicate a continuation of the diverse trends: industrial output was up 1.5 per cent. in the first half and consumer spending 12 per cent. lower on the month in 1974.

BY LESLIE COLLITT, Berlin Correspondent

exists already, as the Warburg's new twin circuit brake assembly "with front wheel disc brakes is described as a joint development with Czechoslovak plants."

Skoda, too, "is coming out with a new model 'some time after the next New Year Day,' which is to contain V8R components. Whether these will im-

considerable imports of know-how and equipment. But both countries are reluctant to cooperate on a large scale with western car manufacturers.

One of their industrial officials explained: "Both our countries are producing only a dozen different kinds of cars: 40 years ago. In the previous years we

"...pride in their industrial prowess, more than plain economics may explain why the two most similar Comecon countries believe they can do without major outside purchases of car technology."

East European motor industry sources cite an agreement recently signed between the two governments for co-operation in the development of "a new generation" of cars and agricultural machinery. According to these experts the agreement will take the form of a five-year plan. The plan runs out, that is, after 1980. It would leave the two oldest and most experienced automakers in the Comecon area without close links with European motor manufacturers.

The easterners suggest that this new attempt at co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and the East European industries stands a better chance of success than a previous plan in 1970 to integrate these industries. Despite a solemn signing ceremony, the plan was never applied to materialise. It envisaged

in a cramped pre-war factory, built by BMW, in order to achieve the sort of economies of integration implicit in the German presence in the East. A car factory would probably have been necessary.

Under the newly-signed framework agreement, a Comecon supplier of the GDR, Wartburg, is to be developed to succeed the present one in production for ten years. The Wartburg will have all the tools of a 1960s to 1980s water-cooled, four-cylinder engine produced by Skoda. This will mark a major advance for Wartburg; which has hitherto used a four-cylinder third cylinder was added in 1970, squeezing some 50hp from the engine. The future Wartburg is expected to incorporate a number of other advanced technological developments. Limited co-operation

clude an East German gearbox as had been foreseen in the original agreement is not known.

One thing does appear certain, however, is that the Czechoslovakians are planning to go ahead in tandem, as far as their basic new models after 1980 are concerned. The extent to which they will be able to replace the worn-out components and pieces of equipment from the West as opposed to from licensees cannot yet be answered.

It is not clear whether the revealed or perhaps, even decided, what role the neglected motor industry is to play in the future. Decisions to boost their production capacity beyond this year's planned 150,000 units for the GDR and 175,000 in Czechoslovakia as well as to increase output per man hour and improve the quality of product would probably require

have achieved the East's highest ratio of motorisation—one car for eight people—through our own production and imports. They will not be able to do this with the Soviet Union without literally buying an entire industry from the West."

Such pride in their industrial achievements, more than plain economics, may explain why the two most similar Comecon countries believe that they can do without outside purchases of technology. They have not prevented them from stretching out for fuelers to leading western car-makers, whose representatives have been on each other on trips to Prague and East Berlin for exploratory talks with foreign trade and car industry officials. These contacts, however, have not prevented them for the eastern side itself was

not aware of the targets which the auto industry was to be given by the planners. They should know more by the turn of this year, when a clearer picture should also begin to emerge of what they may want to buy from the West.

Sales to both countries of Western equipment, components

than plain economics
con countries believe
s of car technology."

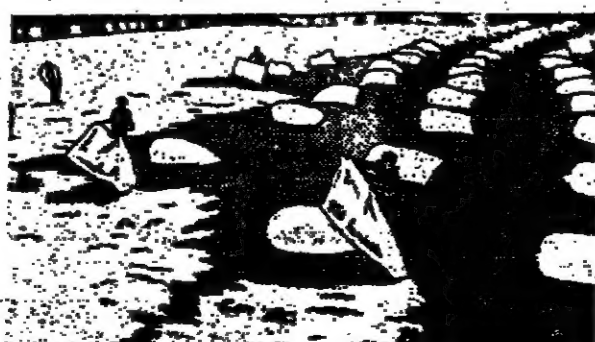
and accessories could come sooner. The British Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders had stand at this month's Leipzig trade fair and apparently found the initial GDR response so encouraging that it will return to the spring fair with an expanded list of cars, 16 British components and accessories, manufacturers were represented at Leipzig, and more are expected next spring when Britain will stage the British 'first national showing, a British Week at the Leipzig East-West trade fair. Interest was originally aroused by Dr. Gerhard Beil of the GDR Foreign Trade Ministry who earlier this year in London spoke of the opportunities for Britain in the GDR's plans to expand car production and modernise car production.

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Dr. B. Werminghausen of
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HOME NEWS

NEDC talks on industry put off for a month

BY KENNETH GOODING, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE SERIES of National Economic Development Council meetings at which the Government, the unions and the Confederation of British Industry aim to develop an agreed strategy to improve the U.K.'s industrial performance, due to start early in October, has been postponed for a month.

Announcing this yesterday, Sir Ronald Mcintosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, emphasised "nothing transcends in importance in Britain today the need to improve our industrial performance."

Without this the U.K. would not be able to achieve its social objectives "and we could soon face—sooner than most people realise—the prospect of irreversible decline," he told a seminar organised by the British Mechanical Engineering Confederation and NEDO.

Sir Ronald also made it clear that the industrial strategy should give a clear priority to manufacturing industry. "Manu-

factured goods are still by far the largest element in our export trade and it is on the health of the manufacturing sector that our national solvency ultimately depends," he declared.

Discussions on a medium-term industrial strategy were due to begin at the October 6 NEDC meeting when a paper outlining the Government viewpoint and drawn up jointly by Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Eric Varley, the Industry Secretary, was to be discussed.

But both Treasury officials and the CBI had asked for more time to consider their reaction to the paper. The CBI publicly complained that unless it saw the Healey-Varley paper by the end of this week it would not have time to produce a reasoned view at the NEDC meeting.

It is now intended that the Government paper should be distributed among Council members at the beginning of October and then come up for discussion at the November meeting, when it is expected that

the Prime Minister will take the chair.

Sir Ronald insisted yesterday that there was no question of any foot-dragging by any of the NEDC members. "All sides are agreed that an industrial strategy is needed," he said. "Whether they will agree on the detailed content is another matter."

The objective behind the strategy will be for the NEDC and Government to pinpoint key areas of the economy to which the movement of resources can be speeded up. This would involve making sure that important growth sectors were not impeded and also spotting those vital areas of industry in genuine decline.

Sir Ronald told the seminar yesterday: "The failure of our main political parties to agree on a broad approach to our industrial problems, which could be applied consistently over a period of years, is a self-inflicted wound which has much to do with our present parlous condition."

Cousins to join NEDO

By Roy Rogers, Labour Correspondent

MR. JOHN COUSINS is to leave his post of a national secretary at the Transport and General Workers' Union to join the National Economic Development Office where he is to be manpower and industrial relations director.

The 52-year-old son of former T.G.W.U. general secretary Mr. Frank Cousins goes to NEDO early in November and will fill the vacancy caused by the death earlier this year of Mr. Pat Fisher who joined NEDO from the TUC some 18 months ago.

At the T.G.W.U. Mr. Cousins has been responsible for some 200,000 members in the public sector including local government manual workers, hospital ancillary grades and airport workers. He has also played a leading role in negotiations for British Airways workers and worked in civil air transport for 10 years before taking up full time union office.

He describes his new post as trying to urge employers and trade union leaders that increased industrial investment would benefit all and expects it to involve "everything from sitting at a meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to negotiating on the shop floor with management and members of unions."

Men and Matters, Page 18

MP calls for State motor insurance corporation

BY JOHN BOURNE, LOBBY EDITOR

RADICAL PROPOSALS for a State motor insurance scheme are favoured by the State taking over all forms of insurance and financial institutions, Mr. Atkinson said.

Norman Atkinson, MP for Tottenham and a leading member of the Left-wing Tribune Group, would eventually issue policies that direction. The Corporation would eventually issue policies for comprehensive motor insurance, fire and theft.

These policies could be made fairer for the motorist by partly basing the premiums on information about each driver obtained from the already half computerised licensing centre at Swansea, and from special Motoring Courts.

"These courts would be able to apportion blame for motorist accidents and administer a system of penalty points which would affect the motorist's insurance premiums."

Mr. Atkinson envisages his Corporation helping the garage trade to improve its standards of repairs and to standardise labour costs, charges and wages.

At present, two-thirds of so-called labour costs represented the overheads of the average garage.

"The average wage in garages is £1.18 an hour while the average labour charge to the customer is £4 an hour."

"The Corporation could assist a very under-capitalised trade with loans, and by instituting a system of inspection and seals of approval. It could also establish centralised warehouses where garages could quickly obtain spare parts."

Admitting that he personally favoured the State taking over all forms of insurance and financial institutions, Mr. Atkinson said that his Corporation would be a tentative step in that direction.

Mr. Atkinson, who is not running against Mr. James Callaghan for election as treasurer of the Labour Party at the party conference next week, outlined his scheme yesterday.

In about a week he will be submitting a memorandum on it to the National Executive's home policy committee, at present headed by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Energy Secretary, and to the Executive's industrial policy sub-committee, headed by another leading Left-winger, Mrs. Judith Hart.

Mr. Atkinson, who will press for his ideas to be contained in Labour's next election manifesto, said yesterday that the first problem was for the State to tackle the large number of unlicensed drivers—"up to 1m. is the estimate of some insurance experts," he added.

The immediate task of his proposed National Motor Insurance Corporation would therefore be to take over all third-party insurance, paying for it not through motorists' premiums but by a levy on all motor fuel.

"To meet the £220m. cost of existing third-party premiums, would require a levy of 3.5p a gallon, and it would not be excessive," he said.

Mr. Atkinson, who is not opposed to outright nationalisation, believes that existing motor insurance companies would be unable to compete with the proposed Corporation.

Inside the Government, one of the most controversial aspects of his scheme will be the proposal for Motoring Courts. Lord Elwyn Jones, Lord Chancellor, said in a recent letter to Mr. Atkinson that the question of traffic courts was considered at some length in 1966 after a proposal from the Law Society.

"The general view then, as on other occasions, was that special courts for traffic offences would serve no useful purpose which was not already within the competence of magistrates' courts."

"Moreover, if such courts were established they would have to be staffed and given accommodation, and it is already proving difficult to find premises and staff for existing courts," the letter said.

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"The Corporation could assist a very under-capitalised trade with loans, and by instituting a system of inspection and seals of approval. It could also establish centralised warehouses where garages could quickly obtain spare parts."

Humber tidal model closed

THE HUMBER tidal model at Hull, which cost £250,000 to build seven years ago, is to be closed for an indefinite period as an economy measure.

The model, which simulates a few minutes a 24-hour tide cycle, is used by engineers for behaviour researches in the estuary.

Bar on S. Korea textile licences

Financial Times Reports

THE DEPARTMENT in a further move against Far East, said yesterday would not consider applications for licences for imports from South Korea.

Quotas on goods from Korea were imposed on 22 under a EEC Commission. They are, in fact, agency quotas for a range of goods, imposed by the Commission because of a failure to agree totals.

On August 8 the Commission suspended licences for goods from Taiwan.

The Trade Department has been swamped by applications for licences to import South Korean goods that have been suspended since the beginning of the year.

Officially, no licences given for goods shipped South Korean ports until quota goods are sorted from applications.

Goods shipped before 22 but which have arrived will be allowed the quota. This has been a long process and the Department has been swamped by applications.

Because of the deluge of applications for Taiwan goods, the Department ruled that it shipped from Taiwan August 8 but not yet in Britain would not yet be licences at least until 29. Goods imported from since the beginning of the year are already big the quota.

Importers with which left Taiwan after 8 but which have not yet British ports face the of keeping them in ward considerable cost. One BPT Leisure International claims to be Britain's importer of garments from Taiwan, says it has 10 ships about to dock in with cargoes worth £6m and £5m.

These goods had been under irrevocable credit, according to Mr. Davies, managing director BPT.

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Retailers seek minimum petrol price of 73.5p

BY PETER FOSTER

ABOUT 6,000 garages will close in the next 12 months, unless a minimum price of 73.5p a gallon daily is enforced by the Government, according to the Petroleum Retailers' Association.

The controversial proposal—which would involve some of oil companies' wholesale garages putting up prices by as much as 10p a gallon—comes at a

time when price cutting is becoming more intense almost everywhere, and driving a large number of retailers out of business.

The PRA, which represents about 2,000 outlets, put forward its claim in a report to the Government yesterday.

It also calls for an examination of oil companies' wholesale claims that their selective subsidies are "actively

encouraging" the present price and promotional war on garage forecourts and driving a large number of retailers out of business.

Claiming that garages are already closing at the rate of 10 a day, the association maintains that present trends will lead to much tighter control of retailing by oil companies.

Rail spending to be curbed

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

BRITISH RAIL'S capital expenditure ceiling next year is now thought likely to be cut by about 25 per cent. from the provisional figure set last winter.

Together with the limit put on next year's deficit financing of passenger rail services—which is now to be no more in real terms than this year—the move marks a further tightening of the constraints now being imposed upon railway finances.

News that investment was to be cut came after completion of part of the annual public expenditure review.

It appears that the total reduction in the previously planned nationalised industries in 1975-77 may be about 10 per cent, or rather more than the Chancellor had envisaged in his Budget.

British Rail's share of the total reduction will be rather more than a fifth, or by far the largest proportion.

This will be the third successive cut in rail investment since British Rail secured Government approval less than two years ago for a major five-year capital expenditure programme. Next year's ceiling is likely to be about £175m. in 1975 survey price terms, or more than a tenth less than this year and about a third less than the rate envisaged two years ago.

Mr. Wilson emphasised the importance for exporters of adapting their goods to meet the requirements of tastes of overseas customers, and gave a warning of the need for quality, reliability and meeting delivery dates.

He said at the centenary dinner of Imperial Foods in Birmingham. "Every member of a firm has a part to play in this. Before allowing ourselves the luxury of disputes, we should think of the effect of them on our export reputation and future orders. Future orders mean future jobs."

Mr. Wilson emphasised the advantages of the fall in the value of sterling for British industry, while admitting its disadvantages. British prices in sterling terms were still much more competitive than many

Disputes could hit exports, says Wilson

THE PRIME MINISTER last night emphasised the importance for exporters of adapting their goods to meet the requirements of tastes of overseas customers, and gave a warning of the need for quality, reliability and meeting delivery dates.

He said at the centenary dinner of Imperial Foods in Birmingham. "Every member of a firm has a part to play in this. Before allowing ourselves the luxury of disputes, we should think of the effect of them on our export reputation and future orders. Future orders mean future jobs."

Mr. Wilson emphasised the advantages of the fall in the value of sterling for British industry, while admitting its disadvantages. British prices in sterling terms were still much more competitive than many

people realised, despite the increase in domestic costs. "We are over 10 per cent. more competitive than we were before sterling was floated in 1972, and this margin has remained roughly constant since the latter part of 1973."

"That advantage carries a price in terms of a depreciation in the value of the pound, with all that this means for the cost of imported fuel and raw materials. That is another reason why it is so important we bring down the inflation in our domestic costs, as our trading partners have done," he said.

When unemployment in this country was too high and the balance of payments was still in substantial deficit, the competitive advantage of sterling offered Britain a major opportunity. Mr. Wilson pointed out

Land Bill 'concessions'

BY JOE ROBINSON

THE GOVERNMENT now seems prepared to make further concessions on the Community Land Bill.

In its original version, the Bill would have given the Government wide and very vaguely defined powers over the acquisition of what it deemed to be land ripe for development.

Proposed amendments to the Bill which will define more accurately the powers of acquisition by local authorities were published yesterday in a policy statement issued by the Department of the Environment.

Two new categories of development are proposed: these are "exempt development" and "development which is outside the scope of the local authority's redevelopment authority."

Until now there has been much confusion and criticism of the definition of what the original Bill defined as "relevant development" and "non-relevant development." Originally this was left to be formulated by regulation without the positive approval of Parliament. The new proposals aim to define these more tightly and to incorporate them in a Schedule to the Bill.

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The Department said that they were meant to reduce the workload imposed on local authorities.

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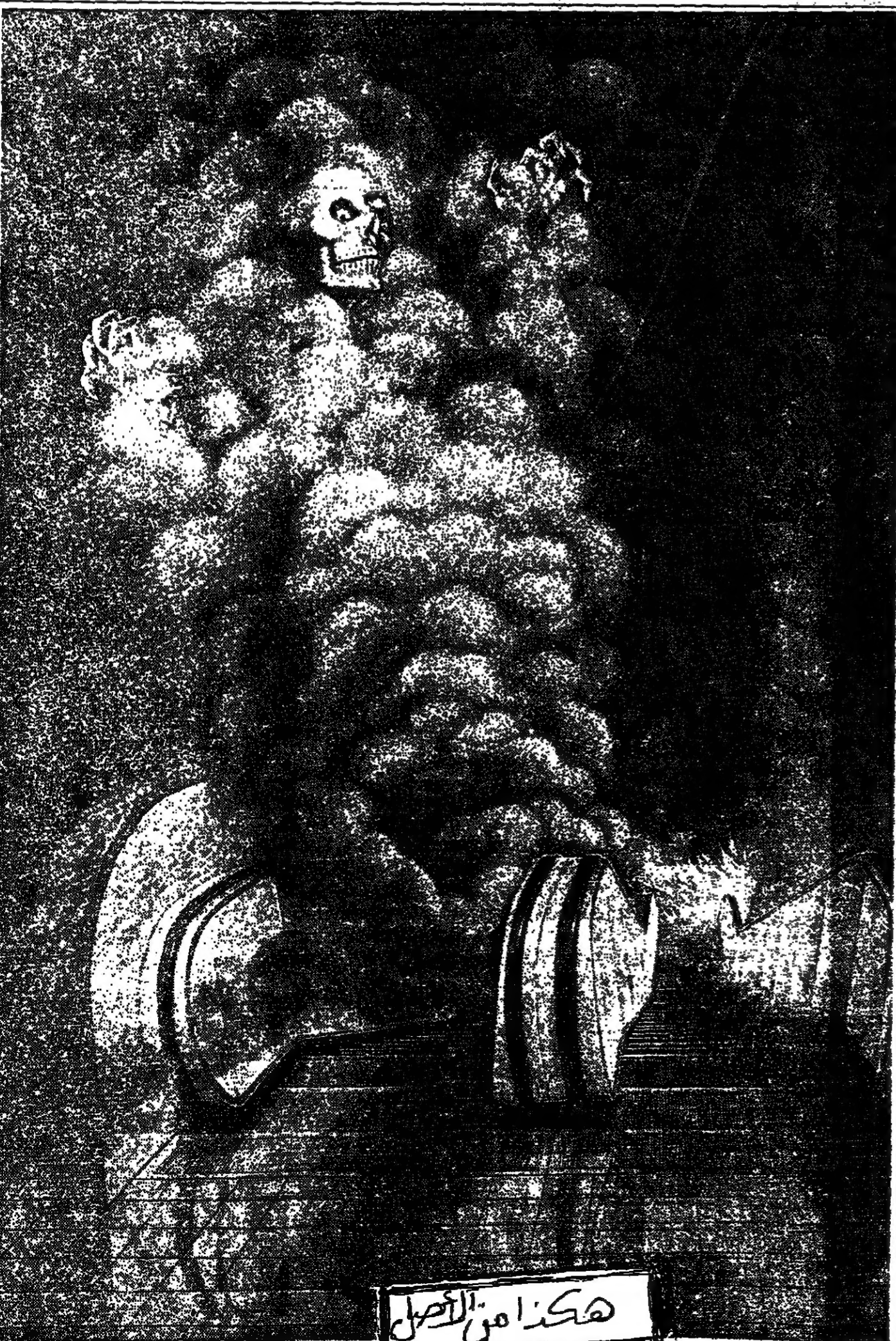
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Death came via the escalator - until Brady shut him out

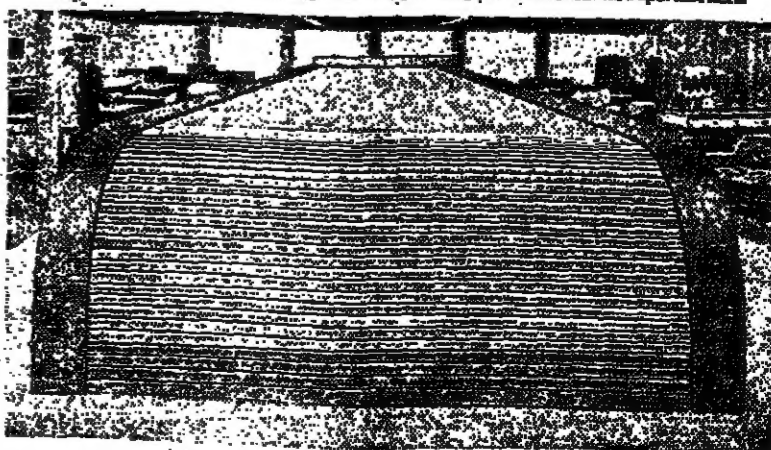
Fatal department store fires recently highlighted a frightening omission in fire precautions. Many escalators and staircases centrally placed in big open floorspaces were completely unguarded by fire doors—in fact, there was no suitably designed fire-resistant door to close them off!

Now, thanks to the Brady Group there is a special patented "roller shutter" that will automatically close over escalators or staircases in the event of fire. It can be operated by heat switch, smoke detector, fire alarm circuit, or simple push-button, and it is fail-safe because it is battery driven. Its effectiveness has been demonstrated at the Joint Fire Research Organisation's test centre and hundreds have already been installed in leading stores and public buildings in Britain and Europe.

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* Patent No. 1,301,522. † FROS report No. 5322.

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HOME NEWS

CL agrees to \$22m. link with two U.S. companies

CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

AIN'S INTERNATIONAL (CPI), the company which was set up by NCR and Control Data in May 1972, ICL's declaration of intent to take a one-third shareholding was announced exactly two years later, in May last year.

CPI's charter covers card readers and punches, line printers, magnetic tape units, credit card readers, but not discs. These are the subject of a new and separate Control Data joint venture in this case with Honeywell, but ICL has bought its larger discs from Control Data for some years.

There is no plan to link CPI with the CDC-Honeywell organization, Magnetic Peripherals Inc. an initial stake of a sixth non-ICL stressed yesterday.

computer Peripherals Inc. the new deal the first step to

wards a merger with NCR and Control Data. The two U.S. companies are also working together on the development of a joint line of large computers.

Following ICL's initial acquisition, the enlarged CPI will have assets of about \$200m. and will establish a research, development and manufacturing facility in the U.K. to be known as CPI Data Peripherals. This will design and make peripherals of an electromechanical nature for the three partners as it expands its operations over the next two to three years, ICL said yesterday.

Apart from making ICL more competitive on both the domestic and international markets by allowing it access to greater economies of scale than it could achieve alone in such standardized products, the deal is intended to strengthen the base of the nascent U.K. peripherals industry through the commitment of NCR and Control Data to using the British operation as their source for peripherals in the U.K. and European markets.

Sperry Rand, which includes the Univac computer group, said yesterday it was awaiting Spanish Government approval to establish what it claims would be Spain's first mainframe computer manufacturing company. Sperry would hold 49 per cent of a joint company, and the plant—probably in the Seville area—would be likely to start output with Univac's small 90/90 computer.

Hundreds of orders for Norton Commandos pile up

PETER CARTWRIGHT, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

TEAMS from Norton Triumph action cars at the Wolverhampton show in the hands of the receiver, are trying to up interest in Koby and the new models, including a new engine, hundreds of orders for existing Norton and machines are awaiting delivery.

An order was placed from Saudi Arabia for 200 Commandos. Another order came from the U.S. These were mainly for police and police type bikes.

It was understood about 10,000 engines are in stock and the order book over the six months covers 14,000 bikes.

At night, the action continued, which seemed unaware of the extent of the orders, agreed to restarting the factory.

It was certainly not back to make money for referential customers like who are primarily responsible for making 1,500 of us Mr. Jack Everatt, a senior member of the committee.

Nuclear pacemakers for 200 patients

DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

UNIT M-POWERED heart, in dogs, to assess the robustness of the design.

Early experience, together with changes in international safety standards for nuclear pacemaker batteries, required major changes to the design.

For example, it was found from the experiments with dogs and from measurements on people engaged in violent activities, that the shock loadings to which an implanted pacemaker might be subjected greatly exceeded anything anyone had previously expected.

The present Harwell design will accommodate shock loads up to 1,000G, compared with only 50G for the first attempt.

It was also discovered that erosion can expose the battery to much higher temperatures than were previously anticipated, and thus risk release of the toxic plutonium nitride fuel.

A new kind of container, of tantalum-tungsten alloy coated with a ceramic, resistant to a temperature of 1,500°C, was devised to encapsulate the 180 milligrams of nuclear fuel.

The plutonium-238 radio-isotope decays to release alpha-radiation, which can be harnessed thermoelectrically to generate a small current. Over 25 years the radio-isotope will decay to about 75 per cent of its initial power output.

Harwell is continuing its research in the hope of reducing the amount of plutonium component required, perhaps to little more than half the quantity needed at present, with advantages both for cost and safety.

well's research and development effort so far is estimated at about £100,000.

The battery is designed for a life of 20 to 30 years, and many would be bringing in all our experience from "man-made" pacemakers, said Dr. Avery, the director of the new venture.

At 70 nuclear pacemakers already been implanted in patients, at four British sites, since Harwell first started in developing heart pacemaker batteries in 1971.

thirty dozen were implanted

Fidelity seeks return to insurance company

ERIC SHORT

HAROLD J. RICHARDS, Chairman of Fidelity Corporation of Virginia, U.S.A., said yesterday that his counsel would bring for the control of Fidelity Life Insurance to be to the Corporation at a forthcoming court hearing scheduled for October 4.

Petition for the winding up of Fidelity Life was presented in High Court on July 23 by Peter Shore, the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, and Fidelity Life in the High Court London and Securities. This was stated a loan and not a by the Bank of England herefore was not covered by Bank's support operation.

Richards said that his would ask for the Bank to honour its obligation in such a way that all holders of Fidelity Life have their contracts protected from the liabilities of the company.



Labour Party celebrates anniversary

The Labour Party yesterday commemorated its 75th anniversary by publishing items from archives which span the years.

The Party was founded in 1900 at a meeting in London, off Fleet Street, as the Labour Representation Committee.

A pictorial history was introduced yesterday by Lord Shipwell, now 90, who joined the Independent Labour Party three years after the L.R.C. was established. With Mr. Ross Hayward (right) the present general secretary of the

party, he looks at one of the documents.

They include two historic posters—one produced by Keir Hardie, first Leader of the Labour Party, in the general election of 1910 and seen over their shoulders—as well as a pictorial history and an "Among Our Founders" pack of 26 original documents and letters.

The pack includes a circular written by Ramsey MacDonald in 1911 to members of the Parliamentary Labour Party on conduct in the House and a 1963 letter from Lenin

NUJ leader calls for State aid to newspapers

BY LORNE BARLING

SOME FORM of Government assistance to the country's newspaper industry was urged by Mr. Kenneth Morgan, National Union of Journalists general secretary, yesterday.

Mr. Morgan, giving evidence at the first public hearing of the Royal Commission on the Press, said that the time had come for the nation to recognise that the Press had a particular role in democracy.

"Perhaps the nation itself has some responsibility to create conditions in which the Press can discharge that role adequately," he added, but warned that his union was strongly opposed to any Government control of the Press.

Britain was alone among European countries in not offering some community help for existing newspapers and opportunities for the launching of new publications.

"For many years, most of the interests in the newspaper industry have taken the view that Government intervention, either directly or by Government agency, is a bad thing. We no longer think that argument will serve."

Mr. Morgan told the Commission that a proposed scheme to pool advertising revenues and redistribute them more equitably was not workable. Individual companies would not favour it

and it would be too expensive to administer.

The Government could help here by playing its own advertising on a commercial basis and in the light of its social duty. In this way, weaker publications could be helped.

The NUJ was opposed to any scheme for setting up publicly-owned printing facilities, but would favour an agency which could "pick up" publication and printing facilities which ceased.

In the wide-ranging discussion, Mr. Morgan also said his union regretted the continued concentration of control in the provincial Press, although this was clearly an advantage in technical terms.

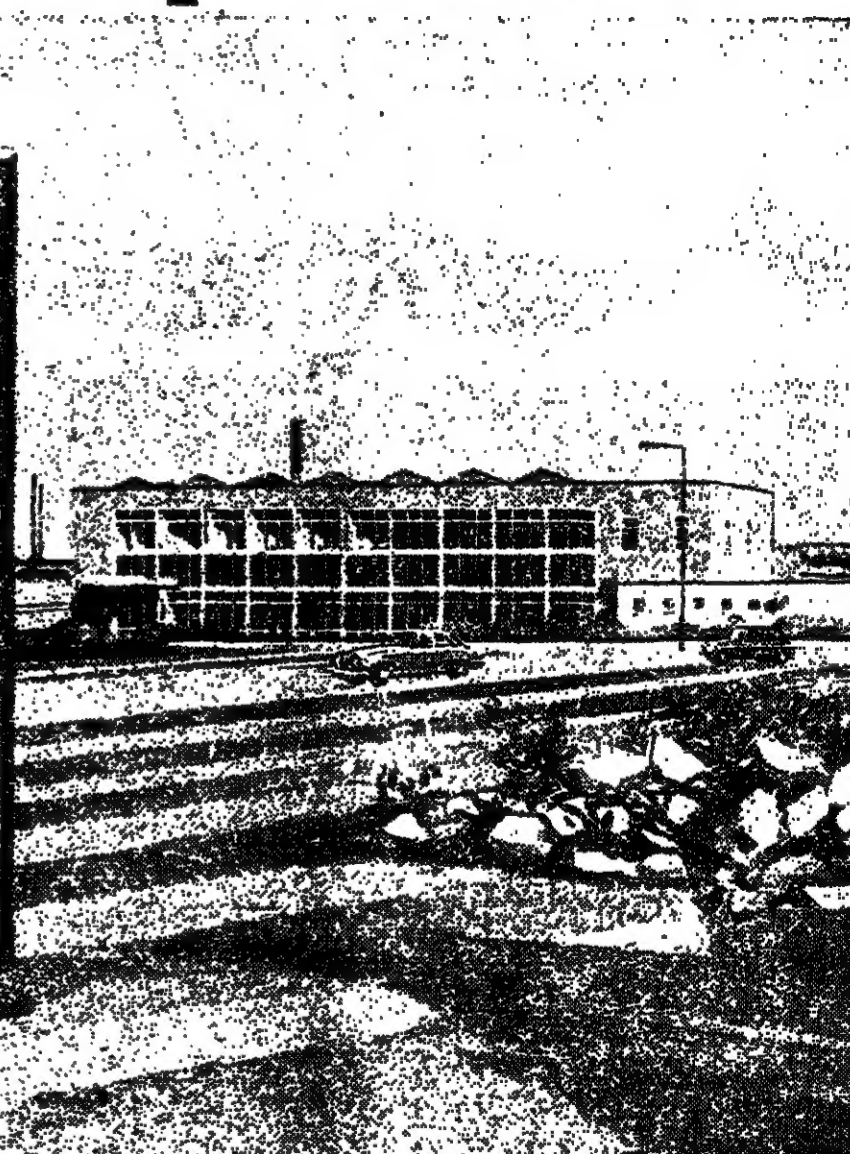
This suggested that present merger legislation was not sufficient to protect newspapers from takeover and although co-operative ownership had not proved very successful so far, new forms of ownership related to the nature of the operation should be considered.

The Press Council should retain its autonomy and not become an arm of Government. However, it was in need of more funds, particularly for research facilities. There was also a need for some appeal procedure against its decisions, but this would prove difficult in implementation.

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LABOUR NEWS

NCB appeals to miners for coal production boost

BY JOHN WYLES, LABOUR REPORTER

A NEW appeal to step up coal production is to be sent to all Britain's miners this week against the gloomy background of declining output. Figures were presented to National Union of Mineworkers' leaders yesterday.

Although repeated exhortations over the past 12 months have failed to produce the hoped for increase in productivity, several members of the NUM national executive were optimistic at a meeting with the National Coal Board yesterday that output would rise over the next six months.

In leaflets circulated at all pits this week, the NCB says that it needs a 5 per cent rise in output to avoid a coal price increase. It emphasises that output has been "disappointing" since April, and points out that productivity is now below the March 1973 level.

Attempting to respond to the theory put forward by Mr. Joe Gormley, NUM president, that rising coal stocks are psychologically depressing miners' efforts, the NCB says that it could do with more than double the 7m. tons of coal in stock at pits and says that stocks are no threat to miners' jobs.

The background to this appeal was graphically presented to the NUM executive by NCB members

who used slides and graphs to convince the union of the seriousness of the situation. After some left-wingers had chided Sir Derek Ezra, NCB chairman, for undue pessimism, he emerged with Mr. Gormley to dampen publicly any suggestions that "all was lost with the industry."

Coal was not like "some enterprises" which were losing millions of pounds, said Sir Derek, although it would be "a little more difficult" to achieve a profit this year because production had not come up to expectations in the first six months.

Absenteeism

He was referring to the latest output figures which show that only 50.5m. tons of coal have been dug as a contribution towards achieving the industry's minimum target for the year of 115m. tons. Absenteeism during the summer has also shown an increase.

Output per man shift stands at 43.8 cwt as against 46 cwt in March 1973 and over the next six months will have to rise to 48.6 to achieve the sought for 5 per cent production increase.

But miners leaders claim that these figures have to be balanced against the fact that miners have

had an extra week's holiday this year and that shift production figures are slightly depressed by a higher proportion of non-productive miners who are still undergoing training.

But the chief conclusion being drawn by NUM moderates is that the industry needs a genuine production incentive scheme yielding cash rewards for higher efforts. Changes in the current scheme are ruled out by the Government's anti-inflation policy, but the fact that miners have won a production bonus for only three out of nine months this year will be used by NUM moderates when, as is likely, they start campaigning for a new scheme next year.

Shield Packaging expansion plan

By Our Own Correspondent

SHIELD PACKAGING, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, yesterday announced plans for a £2m. expansion programme which will bring 245 jobs to the region.

When production starts in its factory extension in November 1976, Shield Packaging will employ 415 men, and hopes to have a turnover of £10m. by 1980.

Bid to delay hearing of AUEW dispute

BY ROY ROGERS, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE AMALGAMATED Union of Engineering Workers will today urge an adjournment of High Court moves by moderates in the union who are seeking to reverse an executive decision to postpone a key election.

The union's executive decided yesterday that they would need two or three weeks to prepare a defence of the action being brought by Mr. Terry Duffy, moderate assistant divisional officer, who is challenging left-winger Mr. Bob Wright for his Division Four (West Midlands and Manchester) executive seat.

Originally the election was to have taken place next month but has been delayed for six months after political haggling over whether 1,000 or 50 Banbury area members are eligible to vote. The problem centres on a decision taken earlier this year to switch the predominantly moderate Banbury members from Division Four to the adjacent Division Five (East Midlands and Yorkshire) from next January 1 as part of a re-organisation.

AUEW moderates claim that Banbury members should be allowed to vote in the Division Four election even though Mr. Wright's term of office does not expire until next September, by which time they will be in the other division and eligible to award.

Tyne draymen vote to end stoppage

The 450 delivery drivers who have been on strike for five days at the Tyne plant of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries yesterday voted to end their stoppage to allow negotiations to take place.

But they will not go back to work until Monday and, supplies at 700 pubs and clubs are likely to be in a critical situation by then. The strike is over later pretation of a recent 25 pay award.

Airline cabin staff return to work

By Our Labour Staff

BRITISH AIRWAYS' European Division stewards and stewardesses resumed normal working yesterday, after a meeting with management officials on Monday night.

The cabin staff have been operating an overtime ban ever since the union's last meeting with management. The union has agreed to clear up long-standing local problems at national level, to clear up long-standing local problems.

During the dispute some European and domestic services have been without bar or catering services, but a spokesman for BAA said that normal facilities would be restored from today.

Tunnel picket

Fifty British Airways Authority drivers began picketing the main tunnel entrance to Heathrow. The men, Transport and General Workers' Union members, who drive vehicles such as road sweepers and runway clearing vehicles, have been on strike for a week over working conditions. So far this has had little effect because 97 other drivers—members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union—have kept working.

A spokesman for the BAA said: "There are no meetings planned."

Print unions accept pay policy deal

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

UNIONS REPRESENTING some 30,000 printing and maintenance workers employed by national daily and London evening newspapers yesterday agreed a 5.5 per cent pay increase in line with the Government's anti-inflation wages policy.

In what is probably the shortest annual wages negotiation in the industry's history the unions—the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, the National Graphical Association, the National Society of Operative Printers, the National Society of Personnel (Natsopa), SLADE (the Process Workers) and the Electrical and Plumbing Trades—agreed to accept the 5.5 per cent rise subject to consideration by their executives.

One union not involved in yesterday's negotiations was the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers whose members are expected to be made a similar offer when they separate at a time when discussions begin next month. Yesterday's talks were over a week over the past 1

Bakery workers expect to agree to £6 pay rise

BY OUR LABOUR REPORTER

LEADERS OF 35,000 bakery workers in England and Wales are expected to accept today a 5.5 per cent pay rise in line with the Government's anti-inflation policy.

A 5.5 per cent pay rise will be an important boost for the policy in view of the militant campaign of industrial action mounted by bakery workers last year in support of demands for a £40 a week basic rate.

But during informal talks which have paved the way for the expected settlement, the employers have warned of possible redundancies because of the estimated £10.2m. a year cost of the 5.5 per cent rise which will be a supplement to basic rates and will not count for overtime and other payments.

The three main bakery groups, Rankes Hovis MacDougall, Splitters and the largest French and Allied

Water employees war of possible action

BY LORELIES OLSLAGER, LABOUR STAFF

TRADE UNIONS representing some 42,000 manual workers in the water industry yesterday tabled their claims for the full 5.5 per cent pay rise allowed under the new pay policy and warned employers that industrial action might be considered if their demand was not met in full.

The employers will meet late next month to discuss their reply and have promised to transmit it to the union within 48 hours.

There was no indication last night how much the employers might be prepared to offer, but the National Board is said to feel that any increase in the region of 3.5 would mean increased charges.

The unions want the new settlement to be implemented from November 2, although some unions to consider the possibility of industrial

Civil servants' claim could reach arbitration

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday told civil service unions how much it was prepared to add to their members' London allowances, reserving the right to change the offer at any time during further negotiations.

This is the common procedure in civil service pay talks, and no details of the offer are being released as long as it remains "without prejudice."

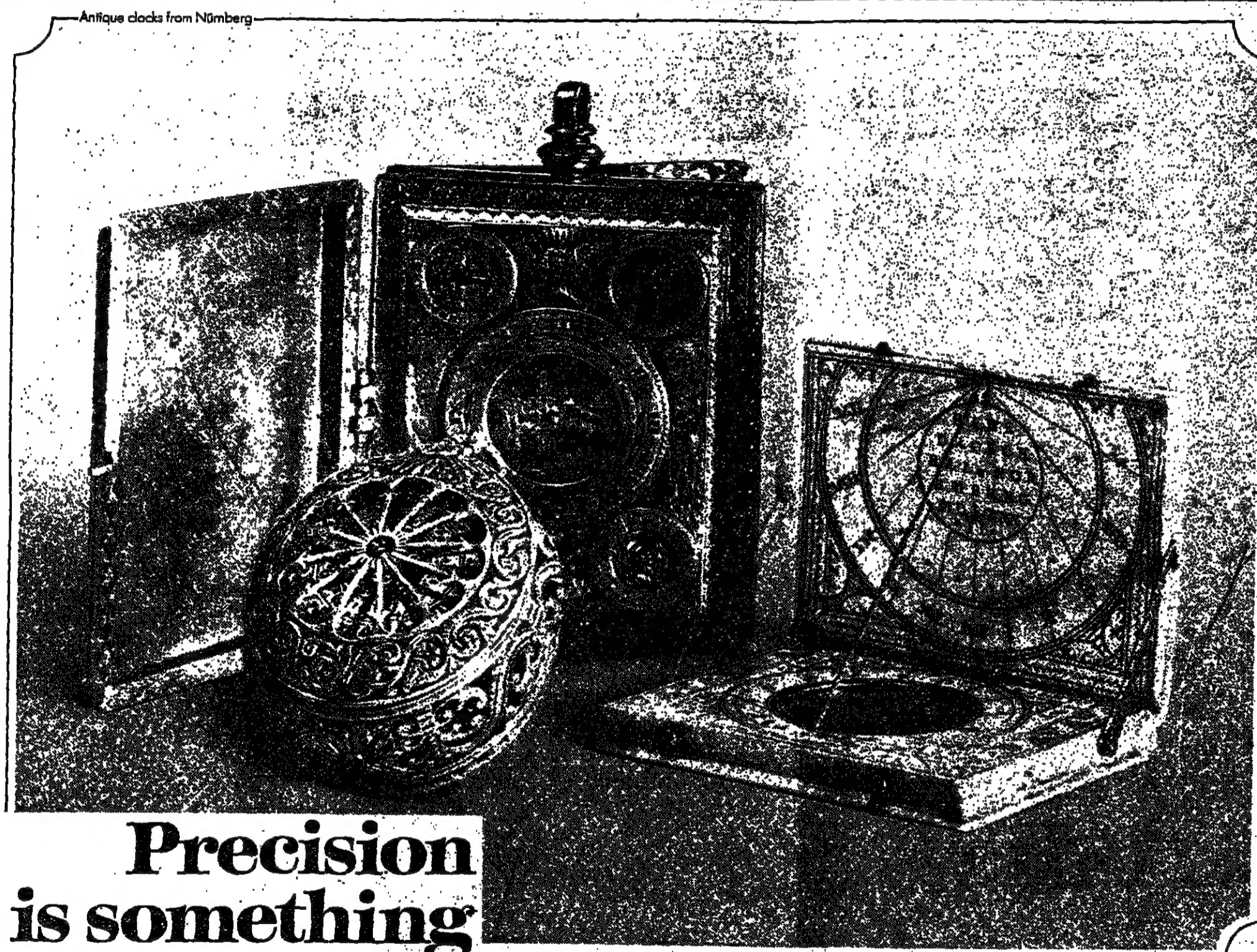
The unions are not satisfied with the offer, but did not reject it out of hand nor ask for the matter to be taken to arbitration immediately as some of them had wanted.

Further talks are expected to take place with the Civil Service Department in an attempt to improve the offer. The chances for a negotiated agreement are rated slim, however, and the possibility of arbitration remains.

The Government is understood to be offering no increase in the present £200 a year allowance for the 42,700 civil servants working in outer London, and the rise proposed in the £400 now paid to some 100,000 people in inner London is also believed unlikely.

The Government is said to have dropped controversial proposals for a special rate for juveniles, yesterday that his com. but to have added another demand that will be difficult for the unions to swallow. This is that the present arrangement under which civil servants transferred from London to other parts of the country should continue to receive their London allowance until it is equalled by the allowance at their new place of work.

In a separate development, the British Gas Corporation has told



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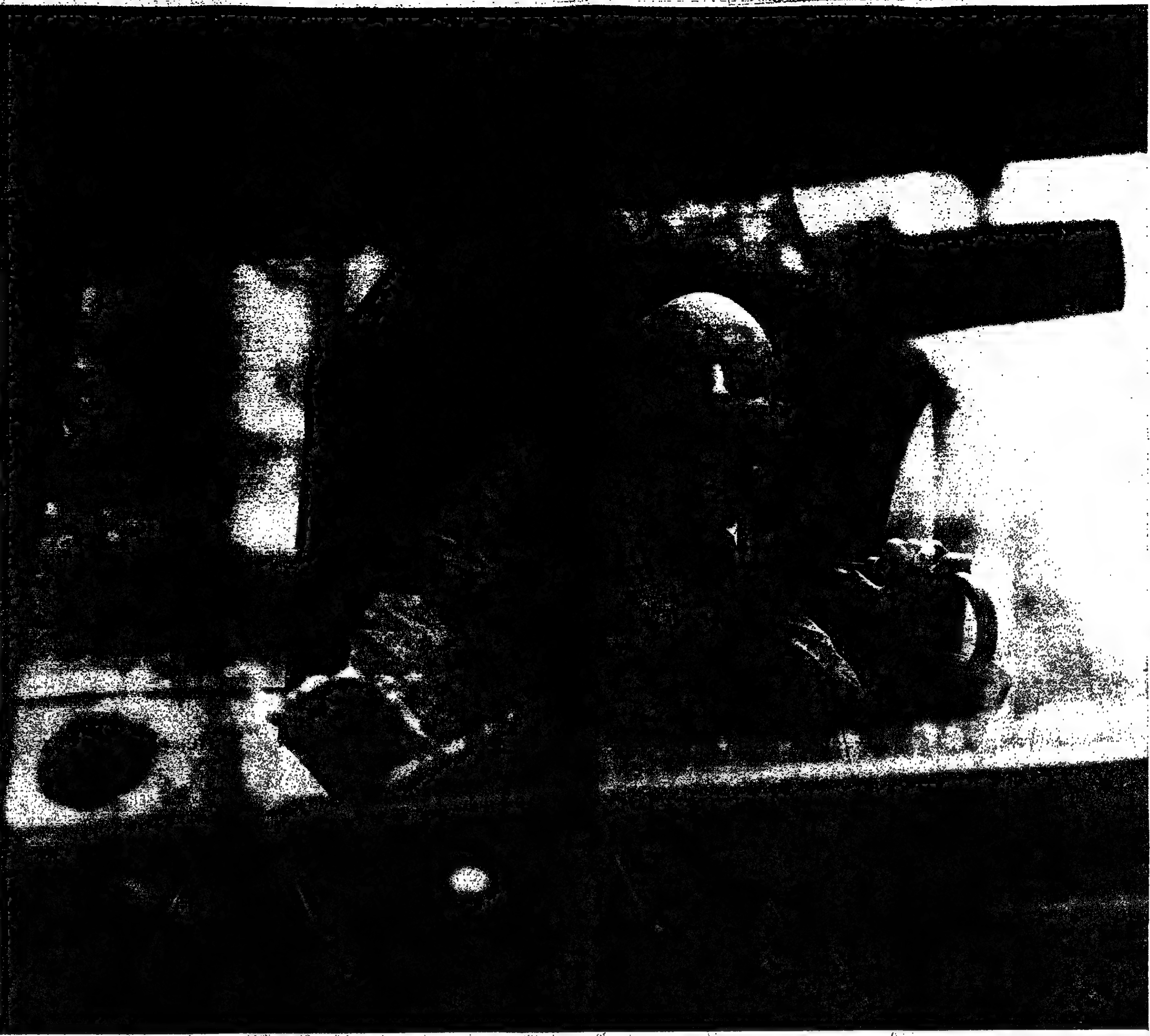
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Day notice lights are lights you notice in the daytime.

They shine through the same lenses as the Volvo's front parking lights but they're four times brighter.

Four times easier to pick up in bad light.

Four times easier to see through the rain. Or the trees.

The theory behind them is simple: what the eye can see the feet can avoid.

Recent research in Sweden and America has shown that day notice lights can dramatically reduce pedestrian accidents.

And last year in Great Britain there were 23,600 of them.

Day notice lights are being fitted to all the new '76 models in the Volvo 240 and 260 series.

They come on when you turn on the

ignition and they remain on until you use the car's normal lights or switch off the engine.

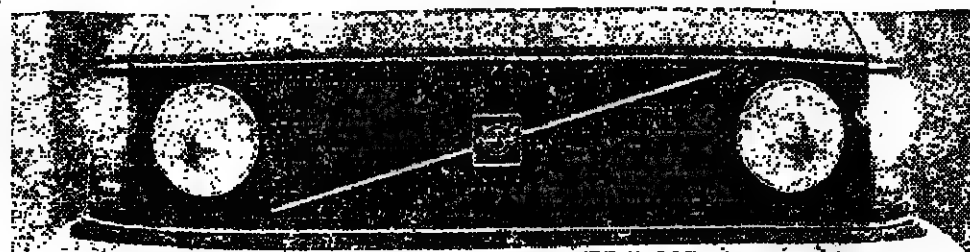
The light is diffuse, so there's no risk of glare as there can be with dipped headlights.

And because the lights run off the alternator, not running down your neighbour won't mean running down your battery.

Of course, some people will scoff.

Driving around with your lights on, they'll say, is just another example of Volvo's over-concern with safety.

Just like they said in 1959 when we were the first major manufacturer to fit seat belts as standard. **VOLVO**



ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM (01-835 3161)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
 Tonight and Fri. 7.30. Mon. 8.00.
 Tomorrow 7.30. Sat. 8.00.
 Tuesday 8.00. Wednesday 8.00.
 Thursday 8.00. Friday 8.00.
 Saturday 8.00. Sunday 8.00.

COVENT GARDEN 240 1066.
THE ROYAL OPERA
 Fri. 7.30. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
 Tuesday 8.00. Wednesday 8.00.
 Thursday 8.00. Friday 8.00.
 Saturday 8.00. Sunday 8.00.

SADLER'S WELLS 01-835 3161.
THE ROYAL BALLET
 Fri. 7.30. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
 Tuesday 8.00. Wednesday 8.00.
 Thursday 8.00. Friday 8.00.
 Saturday 8.00. Sunday 8.00.

THEATRES

ADOLPH THEATRE 01-835 7611.
 Eves. 7.30. Mat. 2.30. Sat. 3.00.
ANGEL
 "A Little Night Music"
 "Music that ravishes the senses. A show Kicked with Genius." Guardian.

ALBERT 236 3878.
 Last 3 weeks.
 Eves. 7.30. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
 Tuesday 8.00. Wednesday 8.00.
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AMERICAN 01-835 1771/3212.
 Eves. 8.00. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
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APOLLO 437 2663.
 Eves. 8.00. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
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ARTS THEATRE CLUB 836 6404.
 Eves. 8.00. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
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CAMBRIDGE THEATRE 836 8055.
 Eves. 8.00. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
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CHICHESTER THEATRE 836 8055.
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DUCHESNE THEATRE 836 8055.
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DUKE OF YORKS 836 8055.
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GARRICK 836 8055.
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GLOBE THEATRE 836 8055.
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GRAND THEATRE 836 8055.
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HAYMARKET 836 8055.
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HER MAJESTY'S 836 8055.
 Eves. 8.00. Sat. 8.00. Mon. 8.00.
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KINGS ROAD THEATRE 836 8055.
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LYRIC 01-437 3696.
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MAYFAIR THEATRE 836 8055.
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MILTON 836 8055.
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MUST 836 8055.
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GREENWICH 01-835 7755.
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NEW THEATRE 836 8055.
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OLD VIC 836 8055.
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PALACE 836 8055.
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PALLADIUM 836 8055.
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PICCADILLY 836 8055.
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QUEEN'S 836 8055.
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ROYAL COURT 836 8055.
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ST. MARTINS 836 8055.
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SHAKESPEARE 836 8055.
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SWAN 836 8055.
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STRAND 836 8055.
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TALK OF THE TOWN 01-734 5951.
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VAUDEVILLE THEATRE 01-835 9958.
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VICTORIA PALACE 01-834 1317.
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WESTMINSTER 836 8055.
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WHITEHALL 836 8055.
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WINDMILL THEATRE 437 6312.
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CINEMAS

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CONFEDERATION SEMINAR

Temporarily lame ducks
'should be given help'

BY KENNETH GOODING

THE IDEA that a new organisation to help "temporarily lame ducks"—those companies bordering on viability—might be used as a vehicle for institutional investors to channel more of their funds into manufacturing and thereby adapt to the future day by day by two of the speakers at the seminar organised by the British Mechanical Engineering Confederation in association with the National Economic Development Office.

Mr. Ian Fraser, deputy chairman of Lazard Brothers, told the seminar—Engineering: The Case for Investment—that the City could not help in the rescue of lame ducks which had no hope of rising again. But he admitted, "there is however the borderline area where recovery may be possible after a long haul and where further investment may reasonably be expected to be profitable."</

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

Wednesday September 24 1975

FELIXSTOWE

During the past ten years Felixstowe has swiftly developed as a port. The number of ships arriving there has more than doubled and the tonnage of the cargo handled has increased by a factor of ten.

Port
ves
new
eaning

REPORT WAS
TEN BY
ER BEARD

Felixstowe's economy there has been a necessary shift away from the town's attraction as a resort to its new importance as a port. With a work force of 1,100, the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company, a thriving private enterprise concern, has had a great impact in recent years.

From small resort town to thriving port is a transition of considerable dimension. Even after the Second World War, when Felixstowe's image conjured up memories of happy holidays by the sea, no-one would have believed it possible that the present, modern dock complex would be developed.

The port, with its continually improving facilities, and the better road facilities to the dockside, is changing all that.

Taking the ten years from 1965 to the present centenary year of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company trade through the port of Felixstowe has steadily grown.

For instance, the number of ships arriving at the port has more than doubled from the original figure of 1,500 a year. For Felixstowe, population 3,000, is changing. Gone are for ever, are the long-holiday makers. They have been replaced by day-trippers cars taking advantage of the warm weather and fine sea which made the town so popular with their Victorian ancestors.

Day-trippers do not contribute as much to the town's economy as the long-stay but cross-country from the Midlands used to do. Welcome lands is now recognised. Facing they are, to sustain the Continent, and with the



The children's boating pool with a putting green in the background.

a place for those who want a quiet day or week relaxing beside the sea.

As headquarters of Fison's, much of the character of Felixstowe reflects the agricultural hinterland surrounding it. Between the town and Ipswich there is a cordoned sanitaire of flat East Anglian fields that stamp the town as very much part of Suffolk.

Even the changes currently being brought about by the port activities owe their origins to that port's original establishment as a port of exit for the shipment of grain. However, though one might regret the passing of Felixstowe as a modest, demure resort, it is to the port that the town must look for future prosperity.

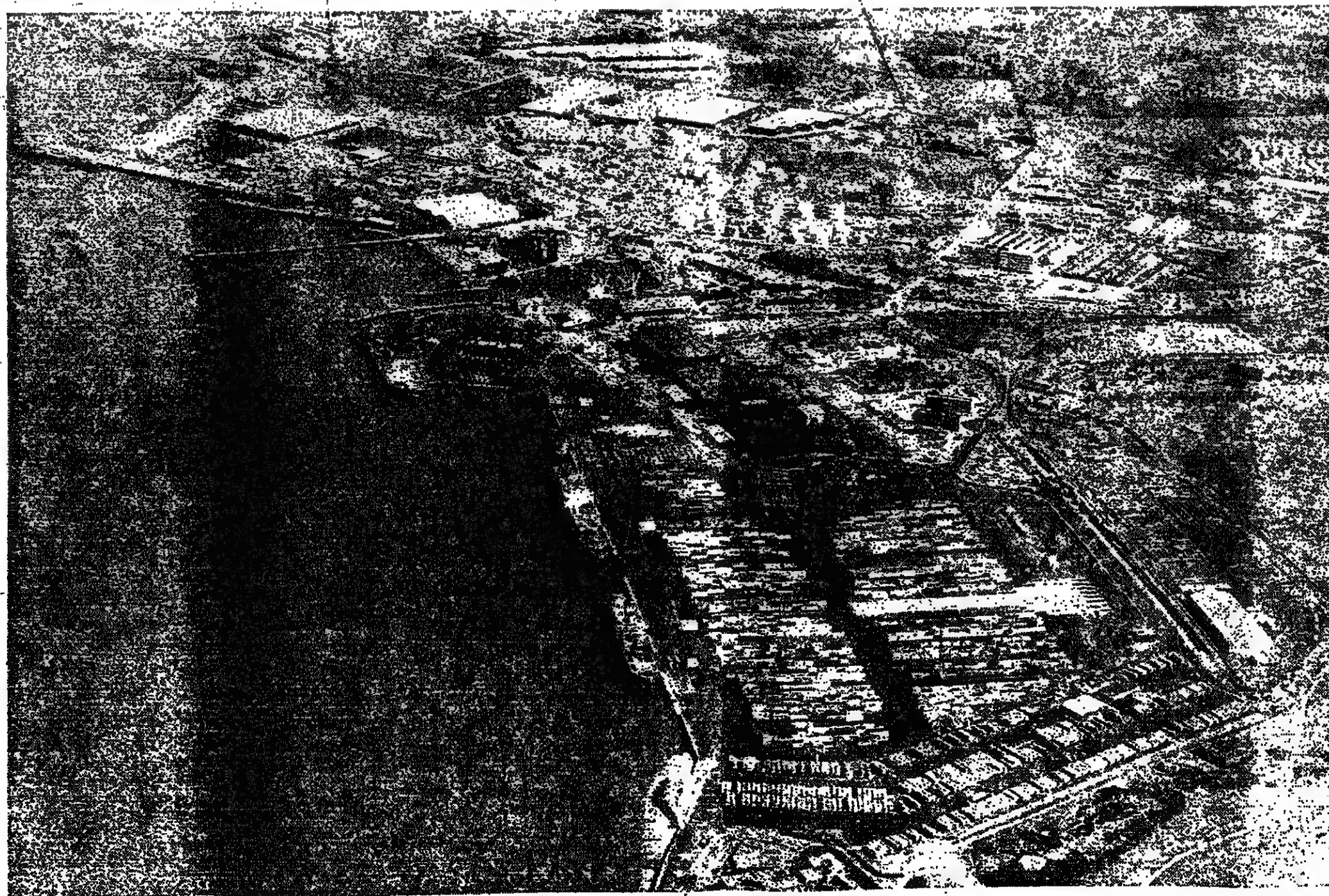
The foresight and imagination which have gone into Felixstowe port's development, with its associated warehousing, storage facilities, and port amenities are beginning to bear fruit for the Felixstowe community just at the right time. They have re-established Felixstowe on the map at the moment when changing leisure habits threatened to erase the resort from it.

A decade hence, and one might envisage a town reborn as a prosperous port, visited not just by the day-trippers but by many of those using the recently established car ferry services, and with amenities which would guarantee Felixstowe its traditional role as a resort. They will first, however, have to do something with that railway station.

promise of a greater flow both of goods and passengers to and from the other EEC members, ever, provide pleasure to a number of visitors. The combined net loss of over £13,000 in the first half of this year, even though the range of attractions ran from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to professional wrestling. It is calculated that the Spa Pavilion is subsidised to the tune of £26,000 per annum, or more than a

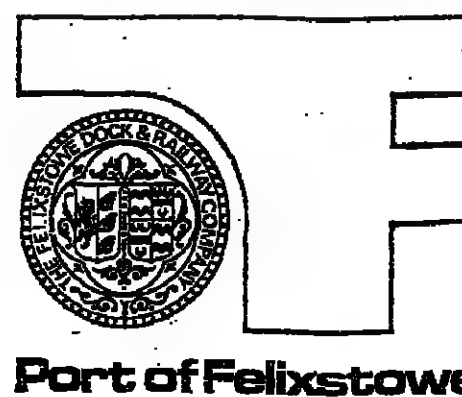
Felixstowe. As a resort, the town is not at the top of the and the Pier pavilions. Recent population. With cutbacks in figures reveal that both these local government spending, and it should be remembered that an entertainment centres made a it should be remembered that the combined net loss of over £13,000 in the first half of this year, even though the range of attractions ran from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to professional wrestling. It is calculated that the Spa Pavilion is subsidised to the tune of £26,000 per annum, or more than a

THE FELIXSTOWE DOCK & RAILWAY COMPANY



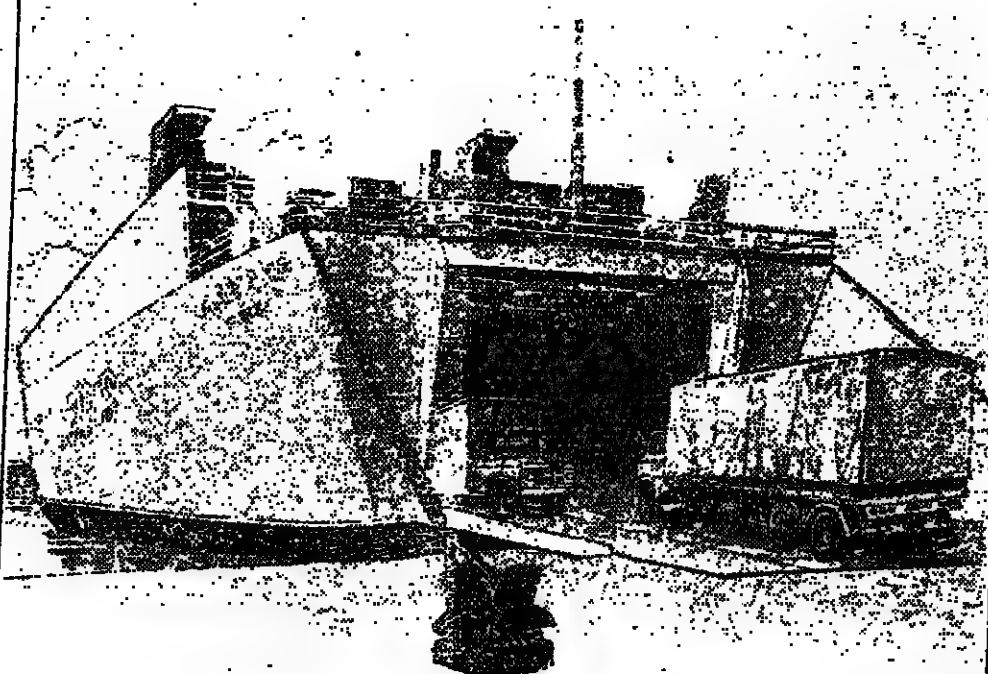
The Felixstowe Dock & Railway Company,
Felixstowe,
Suffolk IP11 8SY.
Telephone:
Felixstowe 4433.
Telegrams:
Dock, Felixstowe.
Telex: 98277.

CENTENARY
1875-1975



Port of Felixstowe

Fred. Olsen Lines

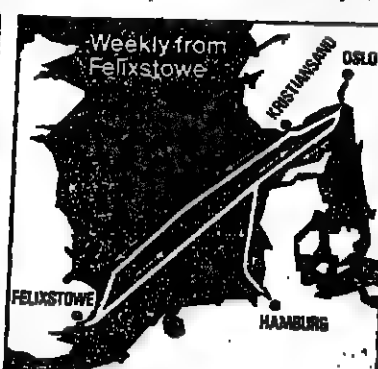
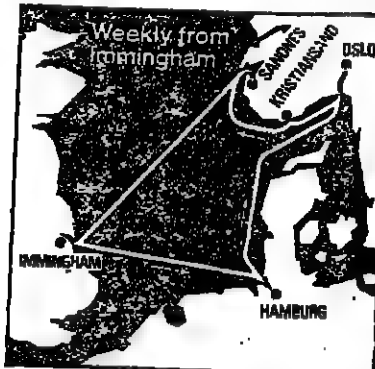


THE UK-NORWAY MOTORWAY

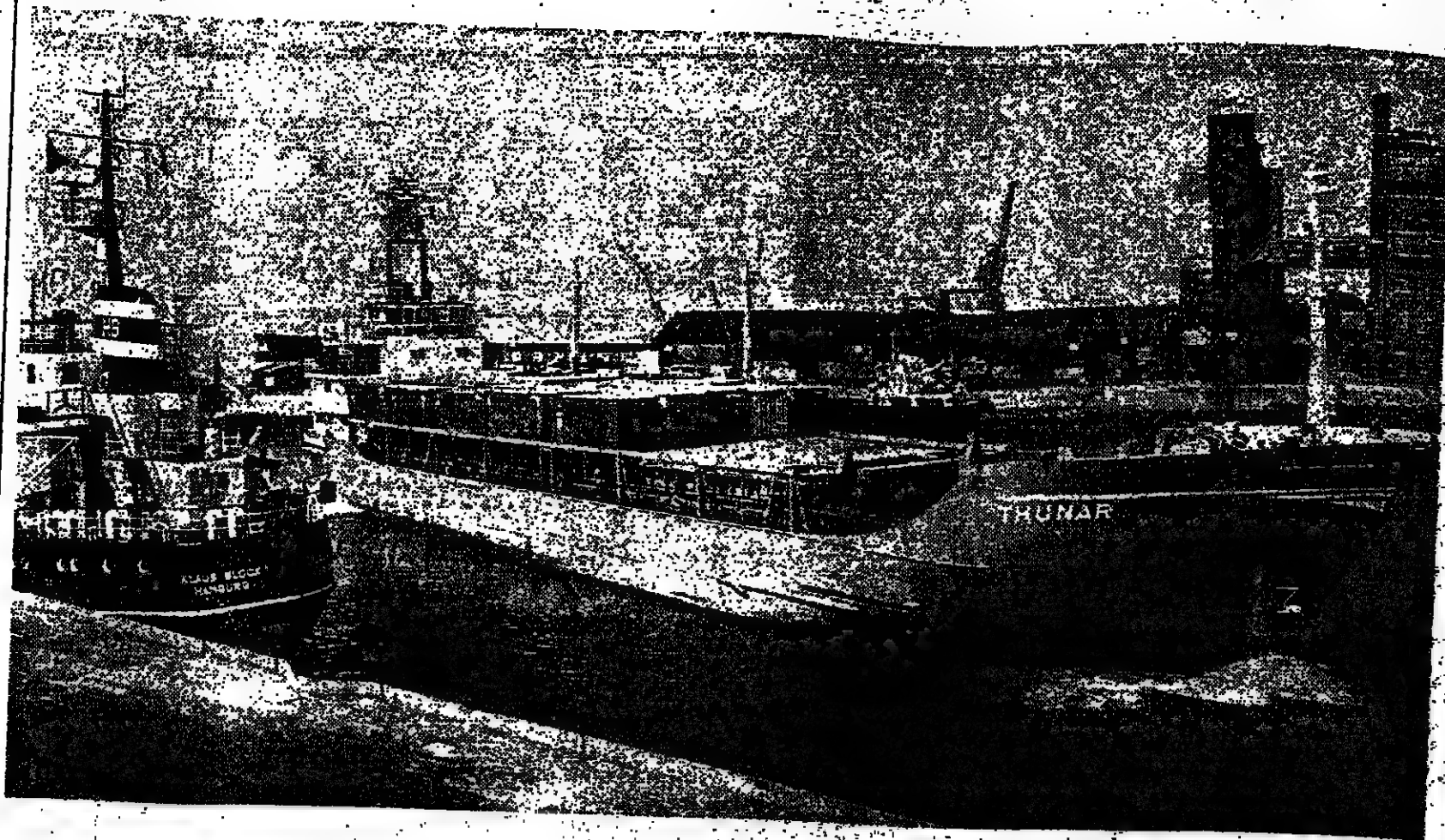
The first Ro-Ro ships built for Fred. Olsen Lines, the Bayard and Bohemund, are now in regular service on North Sea routes.

These new ships have been designed for multi-purpose cargo, and carry containers, trailers, flats, vehicles, wheeled machinery and accommodate up to 12 persons.

Bohemund enables the line to include Hamburg twice weekly on the schedule. For more information contact: Fred. Olsen Ltd, 33-34 Bury St., London EC3A 5AT, Tel: 01-222 4222



FELIXSTOWE II



A container ship enters the docks.

The success of Felixstowe, which is the only private enterprise port of any size in the United Kingdom, represents a triumph of enthusiasts against the odds. Yet only a short time ago the dock was silted-up and regarded as unlikely to be much used again.

Surprising revival

FELIXSTOWE TANK DEVELOPMENTS LTD.

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THE FELIXSTOWE Dock and Railway Company this month celebrates the anniversary of its foundation: one hundred years of mixed fortunes which have culminated in one of the more remarkable success stories of British port development. The only private enterprise port of any size in the United Kingdom nowadays, Felixstowe owes much of that success to the energies of one man, the present chairman and managing director, Gordon Parker.

When he took control of the company 24 years ago, the once grandiose concept of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company had been reduced to a small, silted-up dock, rotting away and unlikely to be used again. Mr. Parker, a successful East Anglian corn merchant, became interested in refurbishing the dock to deal with the import and export of grain. That was the beginning of an astute business decision which has since grown from a single idea into one of the most successful of the country's ports and is now of increasing national importance. Ports, however, do not grow like Topsy. They need planning and skilled staff.

Mr. Parker acquired the experts, who quickly set about planning the recovery of the port not just with an eye to the grain trade, but with the other eye set firmly on the obvious potential of Felixstowe as a port primarily serving Europe. Many said it could not be done; but with a small band of workers the derelict dock was carved back into life. Old buildings were restored to use, antiquated steam cranes which had seen service in the Great War were brought back into

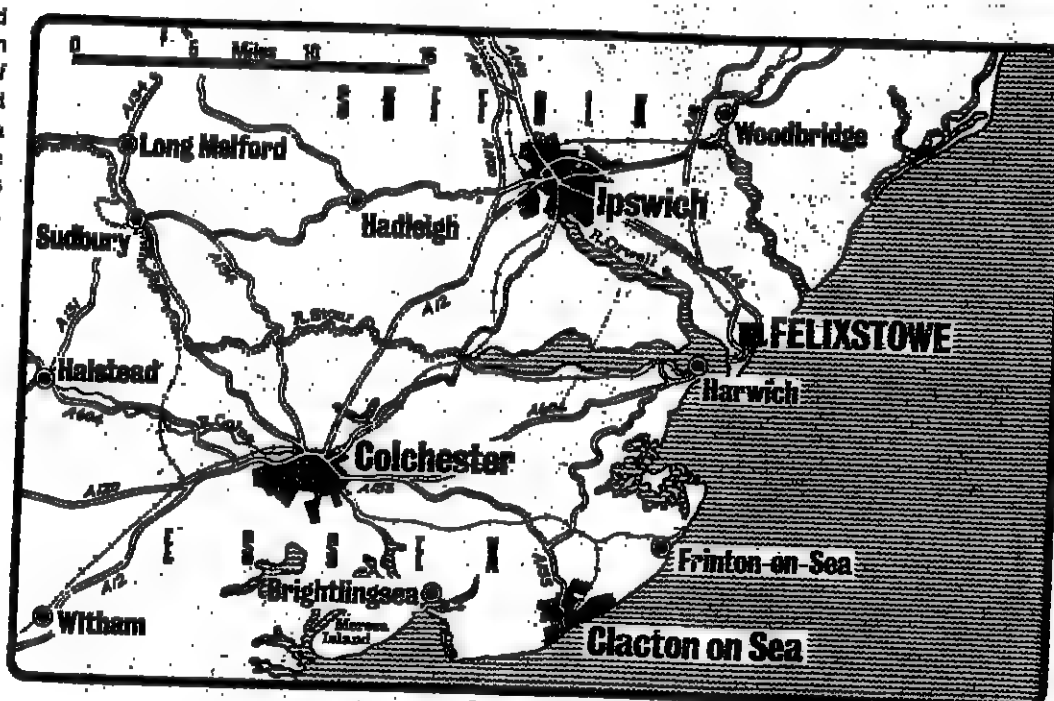
operation. By "spatch-cocking" and working on a shoestring, the seeds of the present port were sown. What was also created was a bond of common interest which, until recently, was a paradox of industrial relations in what elsewhere was the jungle of dockland. Though overtime bans are now a part of Felixstowe dock life from time to time, good industrial relations have mainly ensured that little time is lost in port operations.

Methodical

Rival ports would see the Felixstowe operation as idiosyncratic. Coincidence, the enthusiasm of an individual, the lack of a strong union tradition among the East Anglian work force, may all have played their part in establishing Felixstowe as a profitable port. The slow, methodical build-up of trade, the gradual improvement of facilities, such as roads. The extension of capacity to cope with the increased trade, all helped.

There is, however, another lesson to be learnt from Felixstowe as a port. Through aggressive selling, frequent trips to overseas ports to gain new trade, and a young, enthusiastic approach from the top downwards, the staff has developed an enthusiasm which gives the outsider the impression that they cannot fail to continue their success.

Behind this lies a general willingness by the men to accept new handling methods as they become available, provided they receive the right reward, and a hard-headed appreciation of the value of consultation in industrial relations. It is axiomatic to successful port operation that ships are turned round in the fastest time within the capacity of the particular port. In part, this depends on efficient handling methods, far more on good industrial relations. The port cannot deliver what it does not have on the market at rival. Felixstowe, they say, delivers. The imagination used in the main selling point is their operation of private enterprise's period charm coupled with the



brought up-to-date extension of rail on cargo facilities, the installation of modern housing and cold storage. What was once dock of interest, now a modern port with Freightliner De handling equipment of a standard as any met longer established Brit

Dream

Many of the Felixstowe staff are joined the company port was little more dream in a grain me eye. These have risen the ranks to top man positions. Now, with a of 1,100 that family may change. It would be Three hundred acres and handling 3.5m. cargo, the variety of foreign port represent the triumph of enthusiasts the odds. Eyed enviously there are as many led there are years in it be learnt from it.

A wide range of property is currently on offer and the town also offers the advantages of sailing and fishing and a beautiful surrounding countryside.

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FELIXSTOWE III

The roll-on/roll-off business has been largely responsible for the expansion of the cargo trade. Extensive quays cater for the container traffic and much modern equipment has been introduced. There have also been significant improvements in road and rail communications.

Cargo handling

Bob Kallbraker, Felixstowe's executive director, attributes the port's success as Britain's fastest shipping outlet and a high on last figures made of £640,853, and he will be a short answer to the question: "our men give us eight hours, work 10 hours pay."

a record of which Mr. Kallbraker is proud, together with continued expansion, change using the most modern equipment, suitable for the size of Felixstowe's container yard. The port's independent handling of cargo rapid turnaround of and of road transport

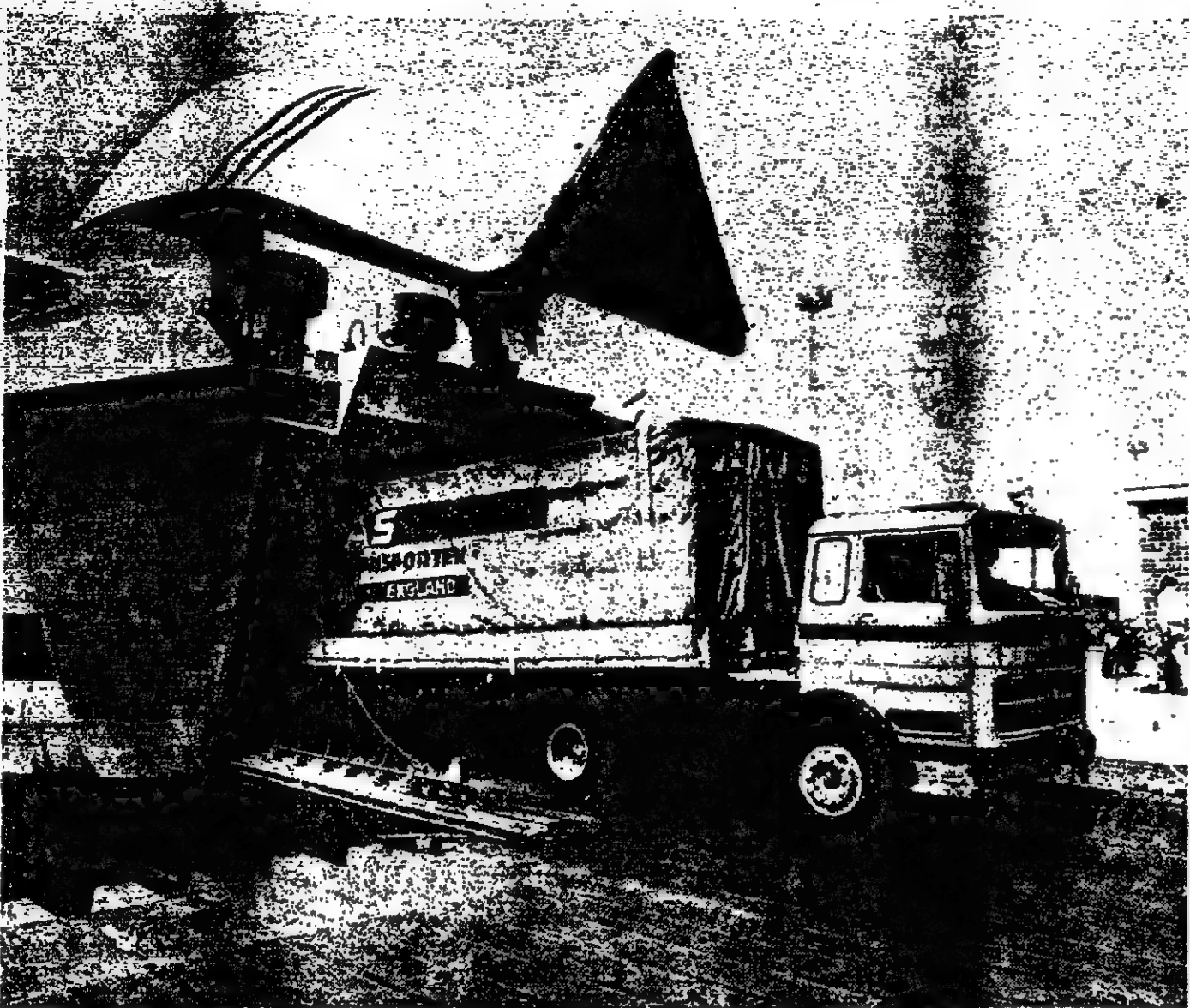
als

on the import and export, the range of cargo handled to make up the image is wide. Unlike ports whose tonnage may be boosted by oil, Felixstowe's pattern is greater diversification from cereals, through machinery, vehicles, and down to the handling of ammunition.

bulk of the cargo methods is divided into containerisation, and roll-off trucking services. considerable area set the landward marshalling dispersal of the country to Felixstowe has been much improved. The effect that such an influx of passengers will have on the Felixstowe economy has yet to be calculated.

Port development has meant not just the provision of hard storage space for containers, parks for lorries, and general warehousing. It has also entailed the build-up of tank capacity to store the liquid chemicals which the port now handles. The first storage tanks were, in fact, erected for the Admiralty in what was thought to be the first such installation in the country.

To-day, the increase in bulk liquid cargoes has meant that expansion of the storage tank capacity is always under review; the more particularly since Felixstowe is close to Rotterdam and other continental handling ports. Tanks are



The roll-on/roll-off terminal.

Passenger services are recent developments in Felixstowe's progress and now operate to Zeebrugge and Gothenburg. It is confidently expected that this comparatively new service will expand considerably now that road access from the rest of the country to Felixstowe has been much improved. The effect that such an influx of passengers will have on the Felixstowe economy has yet to be calculated.

Port development has meant not just the provision of hard storage space for containers, parks for lorries, and general warehousing. It has also entailed the build-up of tank capacity to store the liquid chemicals which the port now handles. The first storage tanks were, in fact, erected for the Admiralty in what was thought to be the first such installation in the country.

Developments, a subsidiary of the Port. Rail freight played an historical role in the building of the original dock and the rail link to serve it. The port is a rail company in its own right, with its own engines, marshalling yards, and tracks, linking to the thirteen-mile British Rail line to Ipswich.

This enables the port to guarantee swift turn-round of rail goods and to use to the maximum the national freightliner service which links the port with all parts of the country as far afield as Yorkshire, the North East, and Scotland. Thus another link in the modern handling of cargo at Felixstowe has been forged.

Property

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

character now basking in the glory of winning first prize for a particular bloom or vegetable. If there is one black spot in this traditional English country activity, it is in the provision of the town's young people. Felixstowe is a pleasant place to which to retire. Inevitably, the facilities available for the differing tastes of the town's young people suffer. Many would say that they have to travel to Ipswich for their entertainment, and that the entertainment provided for them there is still inadequate.

Organised youth clubs exist in most of the communities, concentrating their summer activities on camping and other holidays and such things as canoe classes. Centrally co-ordinated these go some way to satisfying the complaints of the young.

Quiet The day tripper or longer term visitor to Felixstowe must be prepared for a holiday which is by the nature of the place quiet. There are some good restaurants, beach facilities for the children, and, as already mentioned, a reasonable level of evening entertainment. Of greater interest, perhaps, is the close proximity of the wild, Suffolk countryside to the north of the town, and the small villages which can be reached from Felixstowe by car.

In a town with as strange a mixture of modern port activity, a long leisure and holiday tradition, and serving some function as a dormitory for the thriving industries of Ipswich, it is difficult to pin down the town's essential charm. Charm, however, it has, with a variety of old buildings, an air of quiet confidence, and a certain dignity. With its small population, one could not expect it to compete with other resorts of far greater size, or even inland towns which act as retail and marketing centres.

It has, though, two major advantages: the beauty of the surrounding countryside, much of which is protected, and the sea and estuary. With the growth of sailing and fishing, as the town gradually changes character, these natural amenities may turn out to be Felixstowe's greatest assets.



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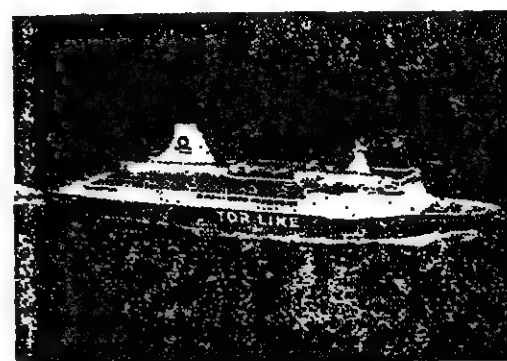
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The Executive's World

EDITED BY JAMES ENSOR

William Dullforce reports from Stockholm on Electrolux's entry into the big league through take-overs

Tigers don't eat grass

"Tigers don't eat grass," says Electrolux chairman Hans Werthen with a twinkle in his eye. He will be swallowing his big acquisition in four months when he takes over the Italian Group in France, AEG or Siemens-Bosch turn-over. Electrolux's sales in the Common Market last year were £130m., excluding Denmark, which is included in the Nordic market in the group's statistics and where sales were around £30m. Its British operations, based on the Luton factory, produced a £49m. turnover.

But most important in Mr. Werthen's strategy is the "fit" between the Martin Group production and that of Electrolux, equipping the Swedes with the "complete kitchen" marketing concept which, in contrast to Britain, is fast becoming the growth point on the continent. The "complete kitchen" marks the culmination of that upgrading of the European white goods market, which finally brought the Italians to earth. Their mass production of cheap refrigerators, which sent so many competitors to the wall in the sixties and is estimated to have left them with roughly 20 per cent. of the West European market, became less effective as demand turned towards the more expensive models. The emphasis shifted from production to marketing and business expertise. Of the two principal Italian companies, Zanussi has been bought by Philips and AEG has a stake in Zanussi.

TURNOVER

See its expansion really got away at the beginning of the decade, Electrolux has not troubled its sales to just £850m., taking in on the as well as NVE, the leading French refrigerator and major company, which was in the black at the half-stage this year. The Martin is expected to raise the Electrolux turnover by a further £107m. next year, consolidating its position on the French, Belgian and Swiss white goods markets and, in the more distant future, opening up exciting prospects in West Germany.

Refrigerators Electrolux is today as big as any of its competitors. In cookers it is second position with the Martin-Bosch, but the Martin

France and Belgium, taking, for instance, just over 20 per cent. of the French market for both electric and gas cookers and selling some 375,000 units. The gas cooker range is of particular interest for Electrolux, since it at present has no production in a field which promises to expand quickly, as natural gas networks are built out over the continent.

The French bought 1.5m. washing machines last year, just under 12 per cent. of them from Arthur Martin and its subsidiaries. Even more attractive from the Electrolux point of view is the dish-washer market, of which Arthur Martin took only 6.5 per cent. But as only 5 per cent. of French homes so far own a dish-washer, the potential remains enormous.

Outlets

Moreover, Arthur Martin has continued to market refrigerators and freezers, buying them from outside producers and maintaining a respectable 8-10 per cent. of the market. Thompson-Houston are the leaders in this field but French domestic production is relatively weak and some two-thirds of both refrigerators and freezers sold in France are imported. Electrolux has a small share only, but the takeover of the Martin Group will give it access to some 12,000 outlets and solidly reinforced its competitive position against the other foreign suppliers. The value of the Martin sales network for Electrolux vacuum cleaners is almost incidental but obvious: Electrolux has had direct sales, door to door, in France, but will now also be able to exploit the trade outlets.

The "fit" between Electrolux and the Martin Group and the

advantage to both in being able to market a "complete kitchen" are so evident that the lack of reaction from the continental producers is surprising. All the more so in that the Martin Group has been ripe for a takeover for some time. Knocked off stride by the Italians, it has not paid a dividend for at least five years and has been running at a loss until the last two years.

In 1974 Arthur Martin, the parent company, showed a profit of £1.7m. on a turnover of £71m. while total group profit was not more than £2.1m. The signs at the beginning of this year were that the group was heading for a loss with Arthur Martin reporting a 1.4 per cent. drop in deliveries during the first four months and a fall of nearly five per cent. in new orders. But demand is understood to have picked up during the second four-months and there is a chance the group will break even.

In July, 1975 Arthur Martin was forced to reduce its share value from £5 to £1 and to issue over 2.5m. shares at the new par value, of which S.A. Geoma, a Luxembourg investment company owned by the Societe Generale de Belgique, took up just over 2.5m. Thus, of the total share capital of £3.5m. Geoma held £2.4m. It is this Geoma holding in Arthur Martin and similar holdings in the Belgian and Swiss companies that Electrolux is buying. It will obtain 75 per cent. of Arthur Martin, 100 per cent. of Nevo Martin and roughly 70 per cent. of Menalux. Electrolux appears to be getting a good bargain. No price has been announced, but it is understood that Electrolux is paying only slightly above equity value which is about £4.8m. for the three companies. It is also taking over a £2.4m.



Mr. Hans Werthen, executive chairman of Electrolux: a strategy of avoiding the cut-price discount market, dominated by the Italians, by marketing the "complete kitchen"

road loan. This would appear changes, but Mr. Werthen to be a very low price for a group with good brand names, a product range complementary to that of Electrolux, group's capital structure and offering scope for rationalisation and, above all, for a foothold on the Continental market. There is another interesting facet to the deal. Electrolux, which borrowed heavily on the international capital market last year (£27m. for the NVE purchase alone) will pay cash for its Martin holding, but it would be no surprise, if it were shortly to make its first share issue on the Continent. It is unlikely to want to buy up the Martin shares remaining on the French Stock Market.

Electrolux is quoted on the London and Geneva Stock Ex-

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Digestion

Is Mr. Werthen's appetite for takeovers satisfied? Electrolux has started a joint venture in Iran, an £11m. factory for refrigerators and vacuum cleaners, for which it is able to borrow locally. It is re-establishing its refrigerator factory in Australia and expanding its vacuum cleaner and typewriter factories in Brazil. Ideas are burgeoning but Electrolux almost certainly needs time for digestion. The group now carries as much weight as its biggest rivals and the moment seems to have arrived for internal consolidation and rationalisation. A £13.5m. increase in equity by a one-for-five bonus and a new issue of £4.3m. to the investment company earlier this year, to create working capital, are also indications from the financial side that Electrolux will curb its appetite. Any new acquisitions being marketed by the Italians, profits.

BUSINESS PROBLEMS

Tenancy created

In a number of allotments, you would be entitled to increase the rent on a new letting, either dead or again, though of them is now occupied by son of a tenant who never had my agent of his father's. Does this render this may invalid? Could I raise rent?

son of the deceased tenant conceded from your agent (fact of his father's death and the son was tendering rent his own account, no tenancy created. The agent must not provision of food and service, at rent from the son now and not just a sham, the Rent the true position is known. Acts would not apply to a bed

Unwanted guests

If we take in bed and breakfast guests for the winter months and they refuse to go, can we just turn their goods and chattels out after a week's notice, using all due care, so as to avoid the delays of court proceedings?

vision of breakfast is a genuine provision of food and service, at rent from the son now and not just a sham, the Rent the true position is known. Acts would not apply to a bed

and breakfast contract (which is normally a licence, not a letting). Accordingly you would be entitled to exclude someone whose licence you had properly terminated without recourse to the Courts. However, the Courts have recognised the rights of licensees who have in fact resided for some time to a reasonable period of notice, and one week would not necessarily be sufficient in all circumstances. You should consult a solicitor with a view to drafting standard terms of the contract which you would make with each of the people whom you take in for bed and breakfast.

Cost of repairs to cottages

I own some cottage properties let to tenants on small rents, which cost me a lot in repairs. Is there any way in which I can transfer the cost of repairs to the tenants?

You cannot now impose on your controlled or regulated tenants repairing obligations which their present leases do not require them to undertake. It is only in respect of any new letting to a new tenant that you can, by granting a lease for more than seven years, impose a covenant to do the repairs with which you are concerned.

Charitable trust and accounts

Is there any obligation on trustees of a charitable trust to have the accounts audited and, if so, what is the authority for such requirement?

Section 33 of the Charities Act, 1960 requires the trustees of a charity to keep proper accounts, but does not oblige the trustees

Investing in Euro-dollar deposits

I am now living in Malta and am trying to protect myself from any further fall in the value of sterling. I already hold certain sums in Switzerland. Could I invest in Euro-dollar deposits and if so, how do I get about a purchase? Have you any other advice to offer on the subject?

We assume that you are non-resident of the U.K. for exchange control purposes and are investing from funds held in Switzerland. If this is your situation, there appears to be nothing to prevent you from investing in Euro-dollar deposits, and your bank would certainly arrange such a transaction on your behalf. However, we should make a number of points. First, in order to get the best rates, a fairly substantial sum would need to be invested — say of the order of £50,000. Secondly, the rate you would earn would be substantially lower than in sterling deposits; at the time of writing around 9 per cent. for Euro-dollar deposits against perhaps 11 per cent. in sterling. Finally, you would still be exposed to an exchange risk: while the dollar is at present gaining, you would need to keep a close eye on developments and be prepared to switch if the situation changed.

Claims on winding up partnership

Is there any way that responsibility can be finalised once a partnership ceases to trade? Responsibility continues so long as claims are capable of being made, normally 6 years from the implementation of the contract. Winding up the partnership would not terminate or restrict the period.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

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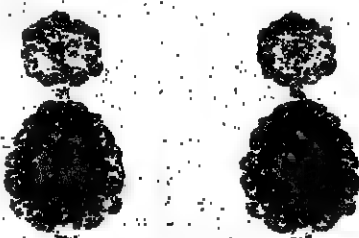
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COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Shrinking margins hit United Newspapers

DESPITE A rise in turnover from £15.03m. to £17.05m., taxable profits of United Newspapers fell from £2.75m. to £1.82m. in the first half of 1977.

The interim dividend is lifted from 4.5p to 5p net. Last year's total was 10.661p paid from taxable profits of £5.3m.

First half 1977
Turnover £17,050,000
Trading profit £2,750,000
Investment income £39,000
Pre-tax profit £2,789,000
Taxation £97,000
Outside holders £4,472
Preference dividend £1,301
Available for ord. £23,539
Interim dividend £4.50

The chairman, Lord Barnetson, says that the downturn is attributable to cost inflation and shrinking margins. Advertising rates for many of the company's publications were raised during the first half, and this is reflected to some extent in the rise of over 13 per cent. in turnover. On the other hand, overall expenditure went up by around 20 per cent. with wages and newspaper as the most significant factors.

During the past few months, further steps have been taken to deal with the situation. The company's morning and evening newspapers have increased their cover prices and advertising rates, almost all of these changes coming into effect during the second half. There have also been recent increases of a similar nature for many of the weeklies.

comment

United Newspapers' profits are a third lower pre-tax and that put the shares down to 20p yesterday. But the dividend total looks like going up again this year. For the six months, costs have jumped a fifth on average and advertising volume—taking in a decline of 17 per cent. in classified—down by just over a tenth. This half-year the evening papers will have six months of a 1p (20 per cent) cover price rise and increases in advertising rates are being pushed through, so July-December profits may not fall far short of being maintained. That would imply a pre-tax total of around £4m., half of which would be enough to cover the 1977 dividend. And United still has very nearly £7m. in cash—100p a share—in its balance sheet.

Oyez up 54% at halftime

IN THE first half of 1977—a most difficult trading period—Solicitors Law Stationery Society reports sales up by 23.3 per cent. to £8.8m. and an increase of 34 per cent. to £728,612 in pre-tax profit.

The chairman, Mr. R. A. Hodges, explains that the sales rise was partly due to inflation but also to an increased market share and expansion into Belgium. The disparity between the sales and profit increases reflects the rapidly rising costs that have had to be met.

Although forecasting is still difficult the chairman remains confident that assuming no further change in trading generally, continued slow but steady progress will be maintained. Earnings per 20p share are stated to be up from 3.04p to 4.16p. The interim dividend is

INDEX TO COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS					
Company	Page	Col.	Company	Page	Col.
Amalgamated Invest.	22	4	Manders	21	1
Barratt Developments	20	5	McBride (Robert)	21	5
Bejan Group	21	1	Metaltrax	23	3
Berwick Timpo	23	5	Metro Town	20	5
B.E.T.	21	4	Newman Industries	23	1
Brixton Estate	23	4	Pittard Group	22	5
Brown & Jackson	23	4	Protector Bond	21	3
Combined English	20	2	Ruberoid	28	7
Dolan Packaging	22	8	Scholes (Geo. H.)	20	3
Haggas (John)	21	1	Solicitors Law	20	1
Heiton Holdings	23	1	Sparrow (G.W.)	20	4
Hillards	23	3	Taye	21	3
Inflation Guard	23	2	United Newspapers	20	1

raised from 1.34p to 1.365p net. For 1974 a total of 3.2425p was paid from profits of £1.28m.

First half 1977
Turnover £15,030,000
Trading profit £2,750,000
Investment income £39,000
Pre-tax profit £2,789,000
Taxation £97,000
Outside holders £4,472
Preference dividend £1,301
Available for ord. £23,539
Interim dividend £4.50

comment

United Newspapers' profits are a third lower pre-tax and that put the shares down to 20p yesterday. But the dividend total looks like going up again this year. For the six months, costs have jumped a fifth on average and advertising volume—taking in a decline of 17 per cent. in classified—down by just over a tenth. This half-year the evening papers will have six months of a 1p (20 per cent) cover price rise and increases in advertising rates are being pushed through, so July-December profits may not fall far short of being maintained. That would imply a pre-tax total of around £4m., half of which would be enough to cover the 1977 dividend. And United still has very nearly £7m. in cash—100p a share—in its balance sheet.

CES 42% mid-term advance

IN THE 28 weeks to August 18, 1977, pre-tax profit of Combined English Stores Group rose 42 per cent. from £1m. to £1.42m.

Chairman Mr. M. Gordon states the Board looks forward with confidence to the completion of another successful year and a further stage in the development of the group.

The interim dividend is lifted from 1.130625p to 1.23p net, and the Board intends to recommend the maximum permitted final dividend of £1m. to £1.42m.

Last year's total was 2.473137p from profits of £3.3m. The chairman declares that the group has made further "substantial" progress. The Harry Fenton mens wear shops and the Salisbury handbags and fashion accessories chain have achieved considerable increases in sales and profits. Plans for the expansion of these chains by the addition of new units and the re-fitting of existing ones are currently being implemented.

The group has maintained a high level of liquidity. It has the strength to take advantage of opportunities for expansion in the U.K. and the EEC as and when they arise, he adds.

Sales
Profit before tax
Tax
Profit after tax
Dividend
Available
Interim dividend

1977 1974
£15,030,000
£2,750,000
£39,000
£2,789,000
£97,000
£4,472
£1,301
£23,539
£4.50

As previously announced, the resolution was passed at the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget Svenska Kullagerfabriken, to increase the Company share capital from 600,000,000 Swedish kronor (Skr) to Skr 900,000,000 by a capitalisation issue of Skr 150,000,000 and a rights issue of Skr 150,000,000.

The rights issue of 3,000,000 shares has been effected. These new shares do not rank for the capitalisation issue.

Capitalisation Issue
The increase in the share capital made by writing-up the value of the shares of the wholly owned subsidiary SKF Holding Maatschappij-Holland B.V. will mean that 3,000,000 new shares, each of a nominal value of Skr 50, will be issued to shareholders without payment.

Allotment. Shareholders will receive one new capitalisation share for every four old shares held of the same denomination.

Right to dividend. The new shares will carry the right to any dividend payable for the financial year ending 31st December 1975.

Records control day. As the Company has adopted the Swedish Law for simplified shareholding, certificates for new capitalisation shares and fractions of shares will be issued by the Securities Register Centre (VPC) to shareholders or nominees, as per the shareholders' register records on 29th September, 1975 (records control day).

Issue date. VPC expect to dispatch certificates as mentioned above on 13th October 1975. No measures need to be taken by shareholders thus entitled.

Fractional rights. One new capitalisation share will be issued against certificates for four fractional-rights. In the U.K., fractional certificates together with the prescribed application forms should be submitted to the Company's paying agents in London: Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd., 45 Beech Street, London EC2P 2LX.

Application for the listing of the new shares resulting from the capitalisation issue has been made to the Stock Exchange, London. Dealings in the new capitalisation shares are expected to begin on the 14th October 1975.

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Second half upturn lifts Bejam to £1.6m. BET action on lossmakers

PROFITS of Bejam, the frozen food and deep freezer concern, rose from £1.22m. to £1.6m. in the year ended June after being some £38,000 in 1974, the first six months of the year.

Mr. J. D. Anthony, chairman, said the first half was due primarily to continuing effects of the 10p share rise and the second half represented an increase of 22.5 per cent. in both frozen food and reached very satisfactory levels in the latter period and every indication that this will be maintained.

The net dividend is raised to 4p, with a final of 10p, the last year the company has paid a dividend, following the offer in June, 1973.

Additional scrip issue of one is proposed, to be registered October 17, and the company is taking out extraordinary dividends of 100 (nil) the net balance 1.64m. compared with 1.64m. in 1974.

Extraordinary items comprise a net of tax on the interest in the cold-pressed oil refinery, announced—£204,000 and £1.2m. released as a result of a sale of 30 per cent. in Aberdeen Ref Pack, £1.2m. provision in 1974, £1.2m. and elimination of 155,000; and elimination of

First half advance at Manders

FIRST HALF 1975 taxable profits of Manders (Holdings) advanced from £306,000 to £385,000 before tax of £455,000 against £455,000.

The interim dividend is lifted from 0.65p to 1.54p net. Last year's total was 1.88p paid from taxable profits of £1.71m.

The UK point and printing ink division (including royalties from overseas companies) contributed £655,000 (£614,000) to first half profits, the overseas printing ink division £175,000 (£174,000) and the property division £118,000 (£118,000).

The directors point out that profits for the first half of 1975 were substantially increased by profits arising out of the effect on the valuation of basic stocks of large and sudden increases in raw material prices following the oil crisis. Profits for the first half of 1975, however, are not materially affected by these factors and therefore "there is a real improvement over June 1974 not shown by the figures."

Decline for products at present is covered, with some at record levels and others declining and thus, together with the general market in the U.K. and Australia, makes a realistic forecast of profits difficult. Where profits may well show some reduction in the short term, in line with general business conditions, the directors are ready to take advantage of improved conditions as soon as they do not expect any improvement during the current year.

From the information available, they expect business to improve in the second half of 1975, and this improvement could be marked. In view of this, they feel rather more optimistic than for some time.

The group continues to add to its surplus cash, and the current market value of the company is £1.6m. However, the directors still do not feel the time is right to commit these funds.

Despite all the problems, they declare there is a reasonable chance of again achieving higher profits in the current year.

comment: Despite a reduced level of activity in the final quarter, which nullified previous gains, the group has ended the year with pre-tax profits of 28 per cent. in the year. Over one-half of a 90 per cent. increase in spinning profits is due to net interest receivable on net liquid balances amounting to £2.8m. at the year end (since increased in value to £4.5m) or 31 per cent. of capital employed; but underlying growth here and on the knitting side was a great deal to the basic nature of the group's products.

they begin to occur," members are told.

comment

Although Manders first-half performance may, on a strictly comparable basis, have been a good deal stronger than the pre-tax rise which the actual figures suggest, the group seems unlikely to produce any more significant profits growth in the second half. Demand for paint increased slightly in the first six months, and the wallpaper interests showed some recovery from the previous year's depression, but sales of printing ink, both at home and overseas, are still at a low level and although material costs have stabilised there seems little chance of any real improvement in margins while further price increases are so hard to obtain. Borrowings, however, have remained steady at the £1.1m. level reported for 1974, and the prospect of further growth beyond 1978 should be enhanced by the first full contributions from the Manders shopping centre which is now nearing completion and is already almost fully let. At 32p the shares are yielding a prospective 10 per cent.

Toye sees similar end result

Manufacturers of civil and military regalia, Toye and Co., announced sales up 12.7 per cent. to £1.68m. for the first half of 1975, but a drop in profits from £20,107 to £19,823, subject to tax of £20,300 against £21,335.

The directors state that with an increasing emphasis on export, they expect that the loss areas will at least be at break even point by the year end and they see no reason to suppose that the result for this year compared with 1974 "will not be basically maintained."

Last year taxable profits reached £224,128. The dividend was 1.25p net.

New Equity & Law bond

Equity and Law Life Assurance Society has launched its Protector Bond linked to the Government's SAYE inflation-proof contract. The investor makes a lump sum payment of £1,023 at outset, which is used to buy a temporary insurance policy, the net monthly instalments are sufficient to meet the 120 monthly contributions under the SAYE contract. This enables investors to use capital in buying what is a regular savings scheme.

In the event of death of the investor during the five-year period the monthly payments would stop but the Society would pay the full difference between the original investment and the total of the gross instalments already paid. However, the investor is locked into the bond once he takes it out: Equity and Law does not pay a cash-in sum on the bond.

EDGAR ALLEN BALFOUR

Effective from September 22 the name of Edgar Allen and Balfour was changed to Edgar Allen Balfour. It is not proposed to call in certificates.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
1000 P.P.	177	120	120
1000 P.P.	108	170	170

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
1000 P.P.	177	120	120
1000 P.P.	108	170	170

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
1000 P.P.	177	120	120
1000 P.P.	108	170	170

INDICATIONS SO far have been that the result of British Electric Traction in the current year should be no worse than, "and indeed might show an improvement on," those for 1974-75, reports chairman Sir John Spencer Wills.

In common with the rest of the industry at home, however, the group's future must depend on the outcome of Government policy to contain wage increases and reduce the rate of inflation, he says.

In the year ended March 31, 1975, group pre-tax profits declined from £43,520 to £37,730. Boulton and Paul showed a big reduction in profits, and Humphries Brothers and Humphries Holdings incurred heavy losses. In the case of the latter two companies action has been taken to rectify management shortcomings which were to a large extent the cause of the companies' losses, explains Sir John.

Due to a deep recession in the film industry there was a loss of £380,000 by Humphries Film Laboratories. There has been considerable surplus capacity in the film processing industry for the past two years and in view of this continuing situation a merger has been arranged between HFL and the successful Colour Film Services. This amalgamation—expected to be fully accomplished by the end of this year—should produce surplus savings and afford a profitable operation.

On the manufacturing side Mole-Richardson (Stage and Studio Engineering) incurred a loss of £255,000 almost entirely in connection with a large contract for the National Theatre. At Opac further progress had been expected but, a serious, although not fraudulent misrepresentation of that company's financial position came to light, and an eventual loss of £249,000 was incurred.

Sir John says that such reverses in the Humphries group cannot be stemmed overnight and a further loss must be expected in the current year.

Murphy Bros—loss £2,94m.—was affected by the miners' strike and by the impact of inflation on costs. Rising labour and material costs resulted in losses on certain fixed price civil engineering contracts.

Referring to an increase in stock and work in progress—from £48.8m. to £79.4m.—the chairman explains that this is mainly attributable to Boulton and Paul where a serious recession in housebuilding left the company with heavy timber stocks purchased at greatly increased prices, and to Rediffusion's subsidiary Redifon whose business increased dramatically and where activity currently continues at a high level.

In the current year at B and P Joinery sales have shown an appreciable improvement and as a result there has been a gradual reduction in timber stocks to a more normal level. Steel construction continues to do well and currently has a healthy order book.

A divisional analysis of profits shows: 1974-75 1975-76 TV rental, relay, broadcast and distribution 12,376 12,323 TV and passenger transport 4,400 4,177 Insurance 4,400 4,177 Plant hire 4,400 4,177 General 4,400 4,177 Other 4,400 4,177

The balance sheet shows that bank borrowings amount to £22.2m. and loan capital to £18.2m. making a total of £40.4m. Against this there are cash balances of £13.1m.—excluding £7m. held in Rhodesia—and general investments shown at a value of £37m. Taking these general investments at their abnormally low value at December last, net borrowings was changed to £47.7m., compared Balfour. It is not proposed to call in certificates.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
1000 P.P.	177	120	120
1000 P.P.	108	170	170

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
1000 P.P.	177	120	120
1000 P.P.	108	170	170

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
1000 P.P.	177	120	120
1000 P.P.	108	170	170

of the general investment as the end of August showed them to be worth £42.7m.

The aggregate amount of capital expenditure authorised at the year end was £48,500m. (£41,100m) including commitments estimated at £22.5m. (£23.3m.). Meeting: Connaught Rooms, W.C., October 16 at 12.15 p.m. Chairman's statement, Page 23

Midterm rise at McBride

REPORTING A rise in first half 1975 pre-tax profits from £23,062 to £47,243, the directors of Robert McBride (Middlesbrough) manufacturers of domestic bleaches and detergents say that indications are that another satisfactory year will be achieved. For the year 1974 profits reached £200,823.

First half earnings are shown to be up from 10.4p to 11.7p per 10p share and the interim dividend is lifted from 1.91p to the maximum permitted 1.54p net. Last year's total was 3.68p net.

The remaining 30 per cent. of the capital of Greina Laboratories was acquired on April 14, 1973. The accounts of Greina have not been consolidated but the directors feel that they would be of no real value in view of the insignificant amount involved. It is intended to consolidate Greina's accounts at December 31, 1973. Statement, Page 33

comment: The results for the year ended 30th June 1975 must be viewed against the background of the world business recession. Except in Japan, where demand for jewellery continued at a high level, there was a marked reduction in world consumption of platinum and the other metals we produce, resulting in lower prices and, in February 1975, a decision to scale down mine and refinery production to a rate of 600,000 ounces of platinum per annum against installed capacity of the order of 850,000 ounces per annum. Meantime, in spite of the recession, some of production continued to escalate at an alarming rate, approximately 28.5% during the year in question. Most metal producers throughout the world had to face similar problems during this period. We also had some special problems of our own.

On 11th November 1974, following exceptionally heavy rain, a wall of No. 1 Tailings Dam at the Batokeng South Mine burst, resulting in the unfortunate loss of 12 lives and severe and extensive damage to surface installations at No. 4 Shaft and some damage to the shaft itself which was partially flooded with slime. The total cost of this accident in terms of repairs and restoration and loss of production was of the order of R7,000,000, of which some R6,000,000 should be recoverable from insurance. To date insurance payments totalling R3,950,000 have been received in respect of claims and the final insurance claim will be submitted in the near future.

On 18th December 1974, following a faction fight in the No. 2 hostel at the Batokeng South Mine in which 3 Black workers were killed and 79 injured, some 3,000 Malawian workers refused to work and in due course moved out of both hostels and camped in the veld stating that they wished to be sent home. Repeated efforts were made to persuade these men to return to work and finish their contracts and ultimately these bore fruit. They returned to work on 30th December.

In the circumstances, the results for the year can be considered satisfactory.

The group profit, before providing for taxation, was R35,884,000 as compared with R42,083,000 for the previous year. This profit was arrived at after charging R13,285,000 for net sundry expenditure including interest on loans (1974: R8,404,000). After providing for taxation and adjusting for minority interests, the profit for the year was R33,400,000. From this profit R25,272,000 was transferred to the reserve for expenditure on mining assets. Dividends declared amounted to 45 cents per share, being a reduction of 30 cents, and absorbed R5,400,000. The balance carried forward was increased to R10,033,000 from R7,324,000 last year.

Improvements in Productivity

I said earlier that over the past twelve months the cost of production had increased by some 28.5%. Of this increase approximately 17% was due to increases in wages payable to our Black workers and the costs of services for them (recruiting, housing, feeding, protective clothing and medical care). During the past few years efforts have been intensified to improve the productivity of our Black labour. In part, this has been a desire to cushion the increased costs of this labour as wages continue to rise. But other and equally important considerations are improved safety and the desire to make mining more attractive to our Black workers by taking some of the hard, physical drudgery out of our working methods and, where possible, by making their work more interesting.

This has involved constant re-examination and improvements of all training methods, fresh job evaluations and, inter alia, the introduction of physical training classes for new entrants. The main efforts have been directed at improving stoping techniques, particularly support of workings and moving broken ore from the stope face to the centre gully scraper, since these are the most labour-intensive of the mining operations. As mentioned in the directors' report, all three mines have now embarked on a programme of mechanisation of their stopes the target being set at a reduction of 25% of Black labour employed on stoping. Preliminary indications are that a 15% reduction is already being attained in those stopes which have been mechanised.

This follows on the work done in 1972 and 1973 which resulted in the development of a 1 ton capacity Monorail car, using small running wheels on a single steel track, to move ore from the face to the gully. Earlier research resulted in the abolition of current stoping sampling and established the present system of achieving control of the grade of ore mined by controlling the stoping width. Stope face photographs are taken approximately twice per month per face by Black operators and this enables management to maintain a continuing check on the stoping width. At present large scale experiments are being carried out on a new type of timber support which we believe will provide better support and better resistance to blast than the conventional mat-pack while at the same time being easier to handle underground and less expensive.

Some of these new developments have been initiated by the consulting engineers or by Impala's head office staff, some by officials working on the mines themselves. But their successful development has inevitably been the result of the enthusiasm and


Room With a View



Stonebridge Park, Wembley
17,120 sq.ft. or 8,560 sq.ft. per floor
Fully fitted to high standard
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AVAILABLE AUTUMN 1976

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ASSOCIATED OFFICES: JERSEY, PARIS, BRUSSELS & AMSTERDAM



IMPALA PLATINUM LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Statement by the Chairman, Mr. I. T. Greig

Operating Results

The results for the year ended 30th June 1975 must be viewed against the background of the world business recession. Except in Japan, where demand for platinum for jewellery continued at a high level, there was a marked reduction in world consumption of platinum and the other metals we produce, resulting in lower prices and, in February 1975, a decision to scale down mine and refinery production to a rate of 600,000 ounces of platinum per annum against installed capacity of the order of 850,000 ounces per annum. Meantime, in spite of the recession, some of production continued to escalate at an alarming rate, approximately 28.5% during the year in question. Most metal producers throughout the world had to face similar problems during this period. We also had some special problems of our own.

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Future Outlook

Recently there have been signs of a somewhat firmer undertone in the market for platinum and by the end of July 1975 the producer price was partially restored, to U.S. \$170 per ounce. The market now appears to be approaching a supply/demand balance as a result of cut-backs in production, inventories having been adjusted to current levels of economic activity and the volume of recycled scrap being now more in line with current levels of consumption. There has also been some investment buying of platinum.

We have been encouraged by the recent improvement in automobile production and sales in Japan and the U.S.A. and the continued strong demand for platinum in Japan. Apart from this, however, unless the economies of the U.S.A. and Europe are firmly re-established on a growth trend it seems unlikely that in the next six months or so there will be any marked resurgence in demand for the metals we produce.

Fortunately, we no longer have the burden of very heavy ongoing capital expenditure. Capital expenditure for the current year ending 30th June 1976 is expected to be of the order of R10,000,000 as against R23,987,000 last year and R67,827,000 the year before.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to express our appreciation for the continuing support of our customers in all parts of the world. On behalf of the Board, I should also like to thank the consulting engineers, the management and staff and all employees of the Company at the mines, at the refineries and at head office for their loyal and efficient services. The operations of our Company and the complex processes involved require a large variety of competent personnel with diverse talents. We are proud of having succeeded in building up such a team during a period of rapid expansion.

Johannesburg, 11th September 1975.

A UNION CORPORATION GROUP COMPANY

Haggas hits peak £2.14m.

RECAST after the first half when an expansion in the current year, to £1.68m., was a record pre-tax profit of £1.68m. in the second half of 1975, and this improvement could be marked. In view of this, they feel rather more optimistic than for some time.

The group continues to add to its surplus cash, and the current market value of the company is £1.6m. However, the directors still do not feel the time is right to commit these funds.

Despite all the problems, they declare there is a reasonable chance of again achieving higher profits in the current year.

comment: Despite a reduced level of activity in the final quarter, which nullified previous gains, the group has ended the year with pre-tax profits of 28 per cent. in the year. Over one-half of a 90 per cent. increase in spinning profits is due to net interest receivable on net liquid balances amounting to £2.8m. at the year end (since increased in value to £4.5m) or 31 per cent. of capital employed; but underlying growth here and on the knitting side was a great deal to the basic nature of the group's products.

IDOTRONIC HOLDINGS LTD

A marked improvement in trading results

unaudited results for the six months to 28th June 1975 as follows:

	6 months 1975	6 months 1974	Year 1974
Revenue	10,270	7,148	16,510
Operating Profit	1,102	677	1,020
Finance	572	352	570
Profit after Tax	529	325	450

no Board has maintained the interim dividend at 1.525p at equivalent to 25% gross.

Trading results for the half year to 28th June 1975 show marked improvement over the comparative for the previous periods, confirming the prediction in the 1974 report and Accounts. These results have been substantially posted by the consumer boom, prior to the increase of VAT, 8% to 25% in April 1975. The underlying strength of the company's assets in new outlets and improved liquidity has been a major factor in enabling the Group to achieve these results.

As the degree of reduced sales after the pre-VAT surge expectation for the second half of the trading year is useful to the extent of an encouraging increase in the annual profit over that for 1974 but will be dependent on the mover achieved.

Extracts from the Interim Statement by G. W. Smith, Chairman

AUDIOTRONIC

Metalrax (Holdings) Limited

Storage and materials handling systems; repetition engineering; metal fabrications; engineering services

	1975	1974	
	6 months to June 30	6 months to June 30	12 months to Dec 31
	£	£	£
Revenue	3,351,829	2,967,148	6,445,889
Operating Profit	407,505	313,549	763,870
Finance	193,505	148,732	356,370

10th Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B39 9PN 021-458 6571

AMALGAMATED TIN MINES OF NIGERIA (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

INCREASE IN NET PROCEEDS OFFSET BY HIGHER OPERATING COSTS

The 36th Annual General Meeting of Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria (Holdings) Limited will be held on 16th October, 1975, at 55-61 Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

The following is the statement by MR. D. R. MITCHELL, the Chairman, circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1975.

Before commenting on the results for the year I should like to take this opportunity to refer to the retirement of Sir Douglas Waring as Chairman of the Company at the Annual General Meeting held in October last year. Sir Douglas was appointed a Director in 1958 and became Chairman in 1961. We have good reason to be grateful for the close attention he devoted to the Company's affairs and for his guidance over a long period. Upon his retirement I had the honour to be appointed as Chairman by the remaining Directors and on 24th October, 1974 Sir Andrew Crichton joined the Board to fill the vacancy created by Sir Douglas's retirement.

RESULTS

Production of tin concentrate for the year ended 31st March, 1975 amounted to 2,800 tonnes, 540 tonnes less than the total for the previous year. However, the average price of tin metal applicable to our sales was £3,372 per tonne for 1975 against £3,311, resulting in an increase in net proceeds of the sale of concentrate after deducting Government royalty payments. This was more than offset by a substantial increase of approximately £700,000 in mining costs, so that the profit for the year ended 31st March, 1975 was £448,000 lower than that of the previous year. The main factors leading to the increase in mining costs were higher fuel and power charges, coupled with the considerable increase in wages which it became necessary to award early in 1975 in implementation of the recommendations resulting from the report of the Udall Public Service Review Commission. The higher costs when expressed in sterling are, however, augmented by the further weakening of the pound against the Naira between the 1974 and 1975 year-ends.

The total production of concentrate for the year, obtained almost entirely as a by-product of tin mining operations, was 182 tonnes, but owing to an improved market for this material the opportunity was taken to dispose of stocks carried forward and sales totalled 300 tonnes of concentrate against 127 for the previous year.

ALL ARREARS OF DIVIDENDS RECEIVED

At the time of the preparation of the Chairman's Statement last year we had still not received from Nigeria the sum of £311,888 representing arrears of dividends declared by the subsidiary company for the years ended 31st March, 1973 and 1974.

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BIDS AND DEALS

Pearl talks with New London

SHARES of New London Properties, in which the big Pearl Assurance holds a 48.79 per cent stake, jumped 50p to a new 1975 peak of 215p yesterday on news that talks were on which might lead to a cash bid from Pearl for the rest of the shares.

At this price level, which compares with the year's low of 90p, the equity of New London—whose interests include the Queens Ice Skating Club—would have a value of £3.8m.

The relationship between Pearl, one of Britain's largest life insurance groups, and New London is already close, and all the signs are that both the Boards favour the take-over in principle, subject to agreement on price. An up-to-date valuation of New London's assets is now being carried out and will clearly be a material factor in negotiations about the hoped-for offer. Earlier valuations have put the asset value considerably above the recent balance sheet figure of £1.4m, but fluctuations over past months in the property market have made a re-estimation of value very relevant.

A further announcement has been forthcoming for the middle of October and it was stated yesterday that if the discussions were concluded successfully, it would be Pearl's intention to continue the New London business. The main purpose of a full takeover in this case is understood to be to put the company in a stronger position, given the already very prominent position of Pearl as shareholders. The move comes four months after the death of the previous chairman of New London, Mr. Edward Plumridge, who was also deputy chairman of the Pearl. At present, New London has an acting chairman, Mr. Douglas Bassett—who is also chairman of Property Holding and Investment Trust—while the Pearl is represented on the Board by Mr. Frederick Garner.

Pearl is being advised by London and Yorkshire Trust and New London by Kleinwort Benson.

NAIRN WILLIAMSON
Shareholders of Nairn Williamson have been sent letters recapping the events which led to the takeover offer for the company and the various announcements subsequently issued by both parties. The letter confirms that following the acquisition of 51.4 per cent of the Ordinary of Nairn Williamson by Unilever, the former offer of the business not already owned will be unconditional.

Formal offer documents will be sent as soon as possible.

NOLTON ESTATES

Under terms of the agreement for the acquisition of Lambton Mack by Nolton Estates, £15,000 has been paid to the vendors, who have exercised their option to take shares rather than cash and 34,888 ordinary shares of Nolton have been issued.

The new shares do not rank for

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Pilkington moves into Finland

By Lorne Barling

PILKINGTON BROTHERS has taken its Scandinavian expansion a stage further with the acquisition of Finland's biggest safety glass producer, Lammo Oy, in a £1.45m deal.

Lammo, which manufactures laminated and toughened glass for customers in 50 countries, now draws its supplies of raw glass from Pilkington in the U.K. and from France. The Swedish plant at Halmsås will in the not-too-distant future supply all its needs.

Subsequent to the year end, the group has sold a representative section of the property portfolio, totalling a further £15.5m. These sales show a shortfall on book value of some 20 per cent.

The plant will also provide float glass for all other uses in Scandinavia, which imported Pilkington float glass worth £1.45m last year.

Mr. S. E. Kay, Pilkington's director in charge of safety glass activities, said: "The purchase of Lammo fits in well with our existing safety glass manufacturing arrangements and with our new float glass project in Scandinavia."

Lammo, previously controlled by the Arnt family, employs about 150 people at two factories in the Tampere region of Finland. It has been responsible for a number of innovations in safety glass manufacturing technology, including the development of horizontal toughening, bending and laminating.

NO PROBES

Mrs. Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has declined to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies Commission:

Union General Properties AG and Union General Properties Ltd.

W. G. Croxall Securities and W. P. Harris (Holdings), General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance and Brighton, Worthing and District Property and Investments Corporation.

W. G. Croxall Securities and W. P. Harris (Holdings), General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance and Brighton, Worthing and District Property and Investments Corporation.

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Newman Industries doubles at midway

STABLE PROFIT of Newman Industries has doubled in the first half of 1975 on turnover up from £10.1m. to £20.1m. The interim dividend is 1.5p net. A year's simple dividend of 2.5p was paid from profits of 1.5p.

The directors state that the continued expansion of the group's business confirms that despite the recession in the U.K. the progress achieved during 1974 has been sustained. They look forward to another year of "significant" achievement.

The group is using factors under its control to achieve the maximum benefits that circumstances will permit and it is particularly well geared to profit from any improvement in the economy. The directors state that the business is in a "strong position" and that the company's recovery is well advanced. They are confident that the company's recovery is well advanced.

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Excess starts Inflation Guard

Excess Insurance Group has launched its Inflation Guard insurance contract, following the lead given by most of the major insurance companies. The new contract is designed to provide cover on buildings, plant and machinery for the full value, including the cumulative effects of inflation, necessary for adjustment following a loss.

The plan has been kept as simple as possible, both in operation and in premium calculation. There is no limit on size of cover and no rigid insistence on professional valuations. The premium is calculated by using a single rate for the inflation factor, enabling the overall premium to be set at a competitive level. The

Brixton Estate ahead so far

Metalrax first half increase

IN THE SIX months ended June 30, 1975 pre-tax profits of Metalrax (Holdings) increased by almost 30 per cent, from £13,649 to £17,705, on a turnover ahead from £2,961 to £3,351.

The directors say that although the same percentage increase cannot be expected over the second six months in the absence of any significant deterioration in existing difficult conditions they believe that holders will be satisfied with the full year's results.

The interim dividend is effectively raised from 0.417p to 0.44p net. For 1974 a total equal to 1.44p was paid from profits of £703,270.

After tax of £214,000 (£164,917), the net profit was £153,305 compared with £187,732 of which £187,339 against £162,382 was attributable to Ordinary holders.

Statement, Page 21

Hillards sales well ahead

Sales for the first 21 weeks of the current year were 80 per cent ahead of the corresponding period last year and it was anticipated that total sales for the year would be about £50m, reported Mr. G. N. Hunter, chairman of Hillards, the supermarket group, to the annual meeting.

As a result of competitive pricing policy, the group's food prices had averaged over 8 per cent lower during 1975 than the Financial Times Grocery Price Index.

Although it was not envisaged that any large stores will be opened during the current year, the company's first new store would be opened shortly in Pontefract.

Berwick Timpo headway

AN EXPANSION in pre-tax profits from £270,453 to £280,891 is reported by the directors of Berwick Timpo for the first half of 1975 and chairman Mr. J. D. Oakley says he feels that results for the full year will prove satisfactory.

Earnings for the half-year are shown to have risen from 2.54p to 2.85p per 25p share and the interim dividend is stepped up from 0.54p to 0.65p net. It is intended to pay a second interim of 0.65p and a final of 1.15p bringing the total for the year to 2.35p against 1.112p. Treasury consent for this increase has been obtained.

Brown and Jackson to improve

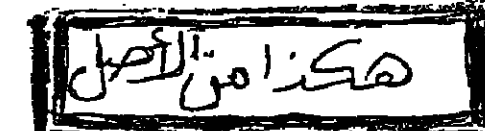
Building and civil engineering contractors, Brown and Jackson, report turnover down from £4.3m. to £4m. for the first half of 1975, and profits of £210,007 against £211,748 before tax of £110,000 compared with £122,000.

The directors say that the second half will show a marked improvement however and they are confident that full year profits will be in excess of the £218,377 for 1974.

First-half earnings are given as 5p against 3.48p per 25p share. The interim dividend is raised from 1.53p to 2p net. Last year's final was 2.1p.

Morris & Blakey

Mr. Arnold Morris, chairman of Morris & Blakey, Wall Paper, states that a number of Ordinary



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The British Electric Traction Company, Limited

Extracts from the Review of the Chairman, Sir John Spencer Wills, circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1975

Accounts

After seven successive years of growth, during which pre-tax profits rose from £5.1 million to £45.9 million, there has been a contraction in the year to 31st March 1975, to a profit of £39.7 million—the level of two years ago. Shareholders were informed by the Board, in the Interim Statement published in January this year, of the likelihood that the year's results would show a profit of that order.

Boulton & Paul suffered a substantial reduction in profits, and Murphy Bros. and Humphries Holdings incurred heavy losses. In the case of the latter two companies, action has been taken to rectify management shortcomings. Also, as I warned last year, the profits of Thames Television fell considerably below those of the previous period because of the effect of the recession on advertisement revenue.

The remainder of the Group showed an increase in profit of £1.75 million, over one-half being provided by the plant hire companies which, for the third year in succession, put up an excellent performance, increasing their aggregate profit from £3.1 million to almost £4.1 million.

Today, when a company's cash position is scrutinised as closely as it is, I wish to say a few words about the financial position of the B.E.T. Group.

In common with industry generally, we have been affected by inflation, especially in its effect on working capital requirements. As the Consolidated Balance Sheet shows, bank borrowings amount to £68.5 million and loan capital to £19.3 million, making a total of £87.8 million. On the other hand, we have cash balances of £13.1 million (excluding balances of £7 million held in Rhodesia), and general investments shown in the Consolidated Balance Sheet at a value of £27 million. Some £24 million of these general investments is held by our three investment trust subsidiaries whose valuations were made at their financial year-ends of 31st December 1974, when share prices in the United Kingdom were standing at their lowest level for 20 years. Taking these general investments at their abnormally low value in December last, net borrowings amounted to £47.7 million, compared with £45.4 million at the end of 1973. The latest valuation of the general investments, made at the end of August, showed them to be worth £42.7 million.

Advance Laundries

Pre-tax profits for 1974, at £1,659,000, showed a modest improvement of £100,000 on those of the previous year, a shortfall in the first half of the year being more than made good in the second six months.

The Towmaster service had a good year and the Airmaster automatic air-freshening service for use in commercial and industrial premises is gaining wide acceptance and beginning to make a significant contribution to profits. Linen and garment hire also made ground and the progress of the Dustmaster machine service was particularly encouraging.

The improvement achieved in the second half of 1974 has continued into 1975 and the results for the current year are expected to show a further increase.

Humphries Holdings

The year under review was an extremely bad one for Humphries Holdings. After two years of gradual recovery, the company incurred a loss, after extraordinary items, of £918,000.

Filmatic Laboratories, which handles mainly 16 mm and 8 mm industrial and general films, had a satisfactory year ending profits of £200,000. By contrast, Humphries Film Laboratories, which provides processing facilities for the cinema and television industries, suffered a loss of £380,000 due to the deep recession in the film industry. A merger has been arranged between Humphries Film Laboratories and the successful Colour Film Services Limited. This amalgamation, which is expected to be fully accomplished by the end of 1975, should, it is considered, produce considerable savings and afford a profitable operation.

On the manufacturing side, Mole-Richardson (Stage & Studio Engineering) incurred a loss of £355,000, almost entirely in connection with a large contract for the design, construction and installation of a stage and attendant lighting system for the National Theatre. It is clear, with hindsight, that the difficulties and complexities of this most original project were grossly underestimated by the management concerned as it existed at the time the contract was entered into.

The unsatisfactory conditions which were found to exist within sectors of the Humphries Holdings Group have not been allowed to continue and firm action has been taken to cut losses and tighten up controls.

United Transport

The 1974 operating profits of the United Transport group, the great bulk of whose activities are overseas, at £11,676,000 were again a record, up from £10,631,000 in 1973, despite the steep world-wide increase in fuel costs and the onset of trade recession in many countries.

The adverse effect of exchange rate movements in 1974 reduced pre-tax profits to £11,508,000, compared with £11,826,000 in 1973 when there were substantial positive currency adjustments. Road transport activities at home and overseas contributed to the increase in operating profit, but the main growth was in passenger and freight business in Africa.

Expansion is taking place in a number of fields, including, in particular, the development of world-wide heavy lift road transport services using the group's unique expertise and international connections; a load weighing in excess of 1,000 tons has been moved.

Integrated warehousing, transport and distribution services have been developed, particularly within the E.E.C. countries, and the network of air freight forwarding companies has been extended to provide a comprehensive international service.

Overseas the group now operates or manages over 100 companies in 20 countries in Africa, Europe, the Far East, and the South Pacific, involving the use of 2,500 buses and coaches, 1,500 cars for tourist transport, and 2,000 freight units.

With this extensive organisation, the group is well placed to take advantage of the recovery in world trade which is expected to occur before we see an improvement in the economy at home.

Canadian Motorways

Twelve months ago, I was able to report that Canadian Motorways had earned a record profit of £799,000 in 1973. It is pleasing to report a further increase in operating profit in 1974, to £875,000. There were also non-recurring profits from the sale of properties, amounting to £139,000.

The new depot facilities in Winnipeg and Edmonton are now in operation and enable the company to provide better services to its customers. Other improvements in Vancouver and Regina are planned and, when they have been completed, Canadian Motorways should be in the forefront as regards equipment and terminal facilities.

Trading conditions in Canada became more difficult towards the end of 1974. Canadian Motorways is, however, better equipped in human and physical resources than at any time previously and the company will give a good account of itself in 1975.

Murphy Bros.

Murphy Bros. suffered a loss of £2,835,000. The company's opencast coal mining operations were affected by the miners' strike early in 1974 and by the impact of inflation on costs throughout the year. Rising labour and material costs resulted in losses on certain fixed price civil engineering contracts.

The company's acquisition in 1973 of a civil engineering firm, Junk & Gruber, based in Munich, turned out to have been ill-judged. Furthermore, it was followed by a downturn in the West German economy which resulted in a drastic cut back in the placing of contracts for road construction works, on which that firm depends. For the eighteen months to end-December 1974, the German subsidiary incurred losses of £633,000, and losses have continued during the current year, the reflection of the German economy having as yet failed to benefit the company.

During the year there has been a reorganisation of the group's senior and middle management.

Boulton & Paul

Boulton & Paul's main operations are heavily dependent on the level of activity in the building and construction industry, particularly the private housing sector. The cut back in housebuilding experienced in the last quarter of 1973/74, continued throughout the whole of 1974/75 and, although the steel construction division had a good twelve months, the pre-tax profit of the group overall fell to £1,395,000, compared with the previous year's record profit of £5,096,000.

The results were drastically affected by a substantial increase in working capital requirements for the company's major activity, the manufacture of joinery. Boulton & Paul has to

commit itself to its annual timber purchases nearly a year in advance of expected usage, and commitments were entered into some time before the recession in housebuilding occurred. The effect of doubled timber prices and the subsequent inability to turn these costly stocks into cash at the expected rate of usage, was to increase finance charges by £1.75 million during the year under review.

In the current year, joinery sales have shown an appreciable improvement, in consequence of which there has been a gradual reduction in timber stocks towards a more normal level.

Printing and Publishing

In 1974, Argos Press Holdings suffered a deterioration in pre-tax profit to £335,000 from the £512,000 of 1973. This fall reflected difficulties common throughout the publishing industry, principal among which was steeply rising costs coupled with Price Code restrictions.

Electrical Press did well, helped to some extent by a number of special factors, to earn a profit of £176,000, a slight improvement on its results for the previous year.

Reclamation and Disposal

In 1974, Reclamation and Disposal suffered a loss of £218,000, largely development expenditure by its subsidiary, Re-Chem International.

Re-Chem International commenced commercial operations at its new industrial waste treatment plants at Pontypool in South Wales, and Roughmure in Scotland, in the latter half of 1974. A third plant is under construction at Fawley, in Hampshire, to replace an existing plant in the Southampton area, but with an increased capacity and also well placed to receive petro-chemical wastes from Esso's Fawley refinery, with whom service arrangements have been made.

The 1974 profits of Reclamation and Disposal's other trading subsidiary, Biffa Holdings, which is engaged in general waste disposal and the handling of building aggregates, were affected by the three-day working week and by the recession in the building and civil engineering industry. The current year's trading is showing a marked improvement, in spite of present difficult economic conditions.

Rediffusion Television

The pre-tax profit of Rediffusion Television for the year ended 29th July 1974, including the whole of the profit of Thames Television for its year ended 30th June 1974, was £7,467,000. The profits of Thames Television for the year to 30th June 1974 were, due to prevailing economic conditions, appreciably less than those of its previous year. Rediffusion Television's income from the leasing of properties was also reduced following upon the sale of St. Catherine's House. These two reductions were, however, more than offset by a substantial increase in interest earned on the proceeds of sale of St. Catherine's House. The profit, after tax and minority interests, of Rediffusion Television, whose interest in Thames is marginally in excess of one-half of that company's issued capital, was £2,564,000—an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year.

The economic situation continued to have an adverse effect on the advertisement revenue of Thames Television during its year to 30th June 1975.

Rediffusion Holdings

The pre-tax profit of Rediffusion Holdings for the year ended 31st March 1975 was £468,000, compared with £769,000 for the previous year. The reduction in profit was due to the substantial interest charges incurred by Wembley Stadium in financing its building and development programme.

Building work at Wembley continued throughout the year on the new conference centre, offices, car parks and the construction of overhead walkways leading from the Empire Stadium. The conference centre is expected to open in September 1976, and the offices should be completed and available for occupation in June 1976.

The Wembley Squash Centre, which houses fifteen squash courts, including a championship court with spectator accommodation, was opened in September 1974. The returns to date from this new operation have been encouraging.

Plant Hire

In 1974/75, each of the three plant hire companies, Edlison Plant, Grayston and J. D. White, again achieved record results, their aggregate

pre-tax profits of £4,075,000 representing an advance of 30 per cent on the previous year's total.

Grayston opened several new depots and towards the end of its financial year acquired Metal Union Limited, an old-established plant hire undertaking in the London area. In the early part of the current year, Musters Hemel Plant Hire Limited, which operates in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, was purchased.

J. D. White continued to improve its position as one of the country's leading operators of large capacity cranes, and plans to add to its fleet further cranes in the 250, 300 ton class.

The plant hire companies have well balanced businesses in that they serve a wide range of industries and, provided further severe deterioration in the economy is avoided, their total profits for 1975/76 are not expected to be far removed from those now reported for the past year.

Rediffusion

Rediffusion's trading profit for the year to 31st March 1975, at £33.7 million, represented an advance of £4 million on the previous year's results and was a satisfactory outcome during a period of economic recession. After increased charges for depreciation and interest, the pre-tax profit was a record £14.4 million, compared with the £13.9 million of the previous year.

The further growth in colour set business was satisfactory, having regard to the diminution in demand caused by the continuation of Government controls on hiring and hire-purchase. Since the end of the financial year, further burdens have been imposed in the form of a heavy increase in the colour licence fee and the increase in VAT on television sets and television set rentals to the 'luxury' rate of 25 per cent.

Parliament has since restored the standard rate of VAT of 8 per cent for rental contracts entered into before 16th April 1975; but the 25 per cent rate continues to apply to other customers and remains a deterrent to the growth of new business.

Rediffusion, in the capital goods sector of the electronic industry, had a successful year. Sales and exports by its three constituent companies, Flight Simulation, Telecommunications and Electronic Systems, reached record levels; all the companies have full order books.

Under difficult trading conditions, Rediffusion and the other music service companies produced a good return but were unable to maintain the progress made in recent years.

Rediffusion's new television broadcasting company in Hong Kong ended the year with a greater loss than we had expected, and will show a loss for the current year.

Rediffusion's long association with Malta, where a subsidiary company was established in 1933, has come to a sad end. Last autumn Mr. Mintoff moved to implement his policy, frequently affirmed in public, to take broadcasting into public ownership. The terms offered to Rediffusion were so derisory as to amount almost to expropriation and the company refused to accept them. Consequently, the Mintoff Government procured an alteration of the Constitution of Malta, enabling a bare majority in Parliament to lay down the basis on which compensation should be paid to a company following compulsory nationalisation. As a next step, Mr. Mintoff's General Workers' Union, on the flimsiest of pretexts, staged a sit-in strike, occupying the company's property. They were publicly supported by the Prime Minister. A few days later the Government enacted a Bill setting up an Emergency Council to operate Rediffusion's broadcasting businesses, specifically excluding shareholders and directors from any rights whatsoever. Having thus been deprived of the businesses and any effective legal remedy, the company had to make the best deal it could and it was consequently necessary to provide, in the Profit and Loss Account of the Rediffusion group, for a loss of nearly £400,000—a poor reward for 40 years' service to the Maltese people.

The licensing arrangements under which Rediffusion has enabled and assisted Burrows Manufacturing Company of South Africa to make television sets of Rediffusion design in that country, are working well. The group's subsidiary in South Africa has been active in equipping hotels and blocks of flats with cable systems for distributing radio and the forthcoming television broadcasts. The joint television set marketing operation in South Africa with Burrows has been established and is trading under the name of Telarama.

The Future

It is pretty well impossible at the present time to comment objectively on what the current year may hold in store for us. Indications so far have been that our results should be no worse than, and indeed might show an improvement on, those for the past year. In common with the rest of industry at home, however, our future must remain dependent on the outcome of the Government's policy, announced in July last, for containing wage increases and reducing the present exceptionally high rate of inflation.

The Annual General Meeting of The British Electric Traction Company, Limited will be held on 16th October 1975, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2.

Copies of the Report and Accounts, containing the Chairman's Review, can be obtained from the Secretary (Mr. J. Stratton House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6AS.

The B.E.T. Group

The directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31 January 1976 of 1.25p net (1974/75 1.1306p net) payable on 21 November 1975 to shareholders on the register on 17 October 1975. The directors intend to recommend the maximum final dividend allowed under Government regulations.

	Half year to 16/8/75 (28 weeks)	Half year to 3/8/74 (27 weeks)	Full year to 1/2/75 (53 weeks)
Sales excluding VAT	£000 24,226	£000 17,732	£000 46,295
Profit before tax			
Taxation — estimated	1,425 741	1,002 521	3,505 1,802
Profit after tax	684	481	1,703
Extraordinary items after estimated taxation relief	(19)	(116)	(494)
	665	365	1,209
Appropriation:			
Transfer from hire purchase profit reserve	(45)	(56)	(120)
Dividends			
Preference	8	8	16
Ordinary	221	199	436
	184	151	332
Balance	481	214	877

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Journal of Management Studies, 36(7), 809-826.

BHP profit prospects decidedly bleak

JAMES FORTH

IN HILL PROPRIETARY, the largest industrial and only steel producer, selling with local and overseas markets, the outlook is bleak. The funds are needed to cover greater working requirements in the face of a depressed steel market. The funds are needed to cover greater working requirements in the face of a depressed steel market. The funds are needed to cover greater working requirements in the face of a depressed steel market.

SYDNEY, Sept. 23.

THE 1975-76 federal budget is disappointing because it failed to provide positive measures to combat inflation and effective incentives to stimulate investment. Other major points to arise from the meeting were: BHP is holding discussions with the Papua New Guinea Government for a possible stake in the giant OK Tedi copper deposit recently abandoned by Kennecott Copper Co. BHP is likely to be appointed manager of the 4000-ton project with a minority equity interest. Other parties are likely to take an interest.

Borregaard export sales fall sharply

By Roy Gieser

OSLO, Sept. 23. BORREGAARD, the Norwegian forest products, chemicals and foodstuffs concern, forecasts a poor result for 1975, despite the profitable sale, this summer, of its interests in a pulp plant in Brazil.

Profit slump at Skandia

By John Walker

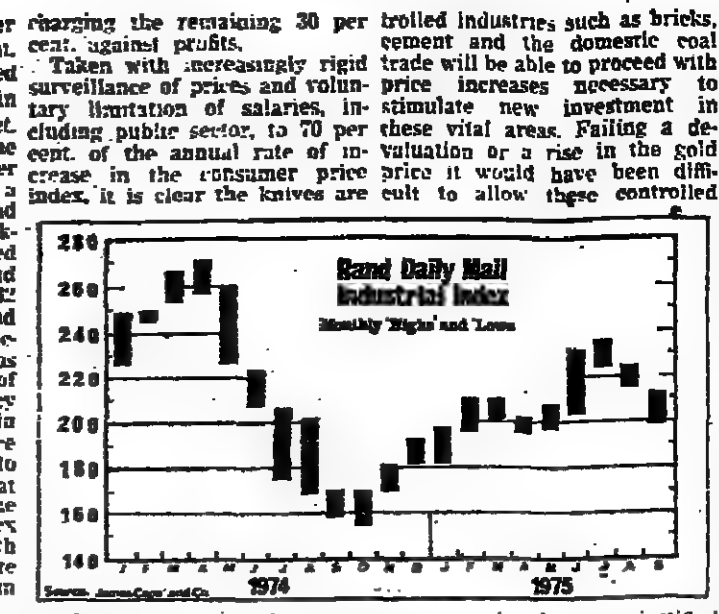
STOCKHOLM, Sept. 23. A NUMBER of large industrial firms and increasing inflation have reduced the profitability of Skandia, a leading Swedish insurance company, the concern states in its annual report. The forecast for the whole of this year is that the operating profit will be reduced to Kr. 17m. (115m.) compared with Kr. 25m. last year, considerably lower than forecast earlier.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHARES

After the devaluation

BY RICHARD ROLFE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE ANNOUNCEMENT over the week-end of the 17.9 per cent devaluation of the rand created an initial mood of euphoria in the Johannesburg stock market. After the week-long slide in the gold price which dragged other sectors of the market down, a somewhat oversold position had developed, but the initial marking up of gold shares lacked significant follow-through and the RDM gold index closed at 232 compared with 202 on Friday and fell sharply yesterday.



Charities rated the 210 level crucial for the industrial index before the devaluation. Further slide to the 180-190 area seemed likely. But the worrying point now is that the week-end devaluation has been carried out without any certainty that the gold price has yet bottomed, and may prove to be only the first of a series of measures designed to curb inflation and protect the balance of payments. This could include price and wage controls with the key proposal in stock market terms, the suggestion put up to the minister of economic affairs last week, that any company earning more than 15 per cent on capital employed should pass on only 70 per cent of any local cost increases.

As a result of the parity change, the Blocked Rand Discount, historically low in recent weeks at a mid price around 7.50 per cent, has narrowed further since the devaluation. Thus on Friday blocked rand were at 8.50 against the official rate of R1:1.40 and are now 11.50, same as the new rate of R1:1.15. The overall response therefore has been a rise in the average price of Johannesburg shares and a rather more modest fall in overseas prices. But the devaluation is hardly likely, by itself, to start a new bull trend in Johannesburg even in areas like base metals and the engineering or construction sector. Ultimately base metals will need a revival of consumer demand to justify significantly higher share prices. Before such a development, some poor results reflecting immediate past and current trading will have to be got out of the way. Even then it must be doubtful whether dividends declared in Rand will rise by enough to compensate overseas shareholders. De Beers, for example, which paid 25c per share last year, would have to raise its payment to 30c to compensate non-South African shareholders for devaluation, a move which would cost R18m. De Beers might conceivably be able to afford a rise of this nature, but there will be many companies which will not. So until the gold price is stabilised and the full extent of anti-inflation measures is known, there is no really sound basis for buying Johannesburg shares except where the external picture is attractive.

Escon passes interim dividend

JAMES FORTH

THE AUSTRALIAN industrial outfit of Bowater U.K., incurred a loss of 60.1p in the June half year, compared with a profit of 1.1p for the same six months in 1974 but continues to be in the second half of 1974 deficit of \$470,000, as it is reducing profit for 74 year to \$470,000. No dividend will be paid, an interim of 5 cents was paid and a final of

SYDNEY, Sept. 23.

trade creditors had also been reduced in line. The Board also said that the transport subsidiary, Freighters Industries, continued to be a serious problem and that the loss for the year was slower than in the December 1974 half. Bowater recently called off an agreement which gave the Australian Industry Development Corporation the right to

30 per cent. voting power in Escon, with only an 11 per cent. holding, and restricted Bowater to a 14.9 per cent. vote. The deal was entered into as a means of "Australianising" Escon to avoid around government policy, but was thwarted last December when Escon, in a change of policy, reverted to foreign status despite its arrangement with the AIDC.

Record profit at TNT

BY JAMES FORTH

SYDNEY, Sept. 23.

THOMAS Nationwide Transport, Australia's largest transport group, reported a record profit of \$48.7m. for the year to June 30, and is expecting a further increase in the result for 1975-76. The latest improvement stems almost entirely from the group's local operations and maintains the group's unbroken string of profit records. The overseas subsidiaries only managed to shake off their longstanding tendencies in the last quarter of the year. The situation has swung round dramatically in the first quarter of the current year.

Local freight tonnage—land, sea or air transport—have dropped by up to 30 per cent. resulting in lower domestic profit levels than the first quarter last year, despite higher revenue because of inflation. However, overseas operations

Skandinaviska Enskilda lifts earnings 9%

By John Walker

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 23. SKANDINAVISKA ENSKILDA bank states in its January-August interim report that the operating profit amounts to Kr. 306m. (132m.). Compared with the corresponding period last year it shows an improvement of Kr. 25m. or 9 per cent. Operations for the whole of this year are forecast to increase by about the same magnitude, the bank says. Deposits were up by 8.4 per cent to Kr. 22.4bn. during the first eight months of this year, while credits rose by 8.5 per cent to a total of Kr. 19.2bn. during the period under review.

Approval for Reynolds Hamburg plan

By Jonathan Carr

BONN, Sept. 23. THE PLAN to solve the complex problems involving the Hamburg smelting subsidiary of Reynolds metals received a formal go-ahead today from the Federal Cartel office. The West Berlin-based body said it had completed examination of the proposals, and planned to raise no objections. The plan emerged last month, after years in which Reynolds' smelting subsidiary had been dogged by law suits alleging environmental pollution and was unable to be operated near to full capacity.

Ciba-Geigy expects worse results

BY JOHN WICKS

ZURICH, Sept. 23.

WITH A continuation of current weak demand and high Swiss franc exchange rates, the Ciba-Geigy chemical concern reckons with "considerably worse results" for 1975 than last year. This is stated by Dr. Louis von Planta, chairman of the parent company Ciba-Geigy AG, in an interview appearing in a monthly publication of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Should no exceptional factors such as monetary disturbances occur, however, Dr. von Planta said that the concern expected real growth rates of between 5 and 10 per cent annually in the near future, due to the diversified production programme and strong market position.

The agro-chemical and pharmaceutical divisions are at present working at 90 to 100 per cent. capacity, said Dr. von Planta, other divisions in some cases operating at substantially lower rates; there were great differences according to product and country, however. For the future, he said the agro-chemical sector was considered by Ciba-Geigy to offer the best growth potential. In pharmaceuticals, "where we probably have one of the broadest ranges internationally," there were good development chances in various fields, though the share of pharmaceuticals in overall sales would hardly show a notable rise. Elsewhere, Dr. von Planta said that in the broad field of plastics and additives, where Ciba-Geigy was currently only active in some branches, offered extremely interesting prospects. The group's dyestuffs and chemicals division would grow in step with the main customer industries—textiles, paper and leather—but its share in overall turnover would decline. The consumer goods sector was to be further expanded as shown by the recent takeover of Alkermid Industries, with the stress to be placed on household goods. In the food group (photographic material), Dr. von Planta said the company was concentrating on such special sectors as professional photography and X-ray films. The investment programme of the concern has not been revised due to the change in the economic situation, he said. This year, however, was to be broadened in various sectors in which the concern was currently active.

Escon urged to take over RSV yards

MICHAEL VAN OS

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 23.

MISSION which has been rationalising shipbuilding sector, has said in an announcement that it is recommending that Escon should take over RSV yards by means of exchange of shares. The mission is Verolme Heus, both located near Rotterdam, the so-called Commission for the parties will be able to give views on the subject at a meeting in Rotterdam on October 1 which will be drawing up the scheme. The scheme is binding if the Minister of Economic Affairs finally approves the proposals. The recommendation said that desirable for RSV to have a stake in the company, would facilitate the co-operation between the yards. This will amount to 30 per cent of the total placed after its planned expansion.

A 20 per cent stake by the state-owned national investment fund, Van der Giesen, which had sales totalling Fls. 247m. last year, is Holland's second largest shipbuilding company after RSV. Escon, RSV Management Board Member Mr. J. Van Der Meer said in Rotterdam that a certain amount of phasing out of the capacity for building new ships at the group would have to be carried out. In the current difficult situation, the Government would have to support the shipbuilding industry with additional credit facilities. Mr. Van Der Meer also urged that Dutch shipping companies should order with Dutch yards as much as possible. The latter should, against the background of fierce cut-throat international competition, notably from the Japanese, accept some orders for the time being with reduced margins or even losses. "At RSV we are prepared to do this as far as the price is concerned if this remains within reasonable proportions," the RSV management board member said.

The establishment of a large new stevedoring company, called Pakhoed-Rotterdam, has been announced by the Dutch companies Pakhoed and SHV. The two partners will each have a 50 per cent stake in the new company in which the stevedoring activities of Pakhoed Rotterdam and Uniceur will be concentrated. A statement from Pakhoed Rotterdam today said that the company's present cargo handling capacity was about 400,000 tons a year. This was expected to be raised to 5.5m. tons in 1977 in which year about 300,000 containers could be handled. Pakhoed Rotterdam's shipping and agency activities will be continued under the name Pakhoed, whereas the forwarding department will operate under the name Pakhoed-Rotterdam.

IAC seeks conversion commercial bank

JAMES SCOTT

TORONTO, Sept. 22.

CROSS OF IAC, Canada's sales finance company, approved a plan to introduce a private member's Bill in Parliament to convert the company into a chartered bank. The bank initially would wholly-owned subsidiary IAC, but a merger would place later. The proposed legislation permit a 10-year transitional period, during which the bank would be brought into line with the Bank Act. Conversion to a bank has been under study for the past year, and the proposal, seen reviewed during the few months with senior members of the Bank of Canada, is now being considered by the government. The plan is to convert the company into a

SELECTED EURODOLLAR BOND PRICES

MID-DAY INDICATIONS			
STRAIGHTS	Offer	STRAIGHTS	Offer
Austria 1984	97 1/2	CONVERTIBLES	
Austria 1985	97 1/2	American Express 4 1/2% '77	75 1/2
Austria 1986	97 1/2	Adelphi 4 1/2% '80	75 1/2
Austria 1987	97 1/2	Beatrice Foods 4 1/2% '82	75 1/2
BPCE 1988	97 1/2	Beatrice Foods 4 1/2% '83	75 1/2
Banque Paribas 1988	97 1/2	Borden 4 1/2% '82	75 1/2
Carrefour 1987	97 1/2	Brookway 4 1/2% '87	75 1/2
Comoco 1986	97 1/2	Canon Camera 7 1/2% '83	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1984	97 1/2	Carrefour 4 1/2% '87	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1985	97 1/2	Chervin 4 1/2% '88	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1986	97 1/2	Dart 4 1/2% '87	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1987	97 1/2	Eastman Kodak 4 1/2% '88	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1988	97 1/2	Ray Moberg 4 1/2% '88	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1989	97 1/2	Bidai 7 1/2% '88	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1990	97 1/2	Ford 4 1/2% '88	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1991	97 1/2	Ford 4 1/2% '89	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1992	97 1/2	General Electric 4 1/2% '87	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1993	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '87	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1994	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '88	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1995	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '89	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1996	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '90	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1997	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '91	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1998	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '92	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 1999	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '93	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2000	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '94	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2001	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '95	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2002	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '96	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2003	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '97	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2004	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '98	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2005	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '99	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2006	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '00	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2007	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '01	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2008	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '02	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2009	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '03	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2010	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '04	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2011	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '05	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2012	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '06	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2013	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '07	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2014	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '08	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2015	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '09	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2016	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '10	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2017	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '11	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2018	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '12	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2019	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '13	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2020	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '14	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2021	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '15	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2022	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '16	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2023	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '17	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2024	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '18	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2025	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '19	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2026	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '20	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2027	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '21	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2028	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '22	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2029	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '23	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2030	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '24	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2031	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '25	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2032	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '26	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2033	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '27	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2034	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '28	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2035	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '29	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2036	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '30	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2037	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '31	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2038	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '32	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2039	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '33	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2040	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '34	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2041	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '35	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2042	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '36	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2043	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '37	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2044	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '38	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2045	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '39	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2046	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '40	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2047	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '41	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2048	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '42	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2049	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '43	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2050	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '44	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2051	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '45	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2052	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '46	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2053	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '47	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2054	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '48	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2055	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '49	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2056	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '50	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2057	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '51	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2058	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '52	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2059	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '53	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2060	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '54	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2061	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '55	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2062	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '56	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2063	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '57	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2064	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '58	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2065	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '59	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2066	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '60	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2067	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '61	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2068	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '62	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2069	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '63	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2070	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '64	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2071	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '65	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2072	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '66	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2073	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '67	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2074	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '68	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2075	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '69	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2076	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '70	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2077	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '71	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2078	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '72	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2079	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '73	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2080	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '74	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2081	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '75	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2082	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '76	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2083	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '77	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2084	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '78	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2085	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '79	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2086	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '80	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2087	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '81	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2088	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '82	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2089	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '83	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2090	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '84	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2091	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '85	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2092	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '86	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2093	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '87	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2094	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '88	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2095	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '89	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2096	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '90	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2097	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '91	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2098	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '92	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2099	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '93	75 1/2
Chapel Foods 2100	97 1/2	Gillette 4 1/2% '94	75 1/2

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

Wednesday September 24 1975

هنا من الأخبار

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican economy has been expanding fast, helped by new export lines such as ferro-nickel and precious metals and windfall profits from sugar sales. Nevertheless the majority of the population have seen little change in their way of life and hunger and unemployment are chronic.

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OF that small but
ing group of people
ke their holidays in the
can Republic must
home with the impres-
having visited a land of
ators.

are indeed a thousand
to entrance the visitor.
cans as a race are
the most friendly,
us and dignified people
Caribbean. This is a fact
s amply reflected in the
y treat their guests and
makes a stay in their
the Hispaniola in Santo
to itself, say, or many
in the Republic, a delight.

the encouragement of
nt Joaquin Balaguer.
poetry has often taken
capital as its subject.
Domingo, has been
d with love and care.
nt surviving European
ent in the Western
here, the old town is full
w resplendent colonial
is including the early
ices most quoted to indicate

16th century cathedral with the
tomb of Columbus. Santo
Domingo must be counted one
of the wonders of America.

The history of the city has a
particular interest for English
people for in 1635 it held out
against the expeditionary force
sent by Oliver Cromwell which
finally ended up seizing Jamaica
for Britain.

The countryside is lush and
beautiful, the excellent beaches
are often deserted, and the
whole country is made reason-
ably accessible by a good road
network. The climate is such
as Londoners and New Yorkers
dream of. Nor are modern con-
veniences lacking. Airline ser-
vices are good and telephoning
London from Santo Domingo
takes a fraction of the time
needed to complete the opera-
tion in the reverse direction.

The new cultural centre
should soon be attracting per-
forming artists from the U.S.
and Europe while in the persons
of Guille Pérez, Fernando Peña
Deñú and others the Domini-
can Republic is producing some
notable painters. With such
assets the country cannot fail
to attract an increasing number
of visitors to its shores.

Sadly, however, the visitor's
Dominican Republic is not the
real Dominican Republic. It
would not be too much to say
that behind the attractive face
that the country presents to the
visitor there lies a society
which, as far as the majority of
its members is concerned, does
not work.

It is true that the in-
dices most quoted to indicate

the growth of the economy and
its soundness are almost all
very positive. Over the past five
years the GDP has risen by an
annual average of 10.6 per cent.
It rose 8.9 per cent last year
and the construction industry
grew at the rate of 12.6 per
cent. Better than many poor
countries without their own
domestic oil supplies, the
Dominican Republic was able
to weather the difficulties caused
by the big rise in the world oil
price. The country obtained
some windfall profits from its
sugar sales and the range of
the commodities it is offering
on the world market is steadily
diversifying. This year the
Dominican Republic has started
its first exports of silver and
gold, according to Sr.
Dionisio Fernández, President
of the Central Bank, shipments
of gold next year should total
350,000 ozs. and of silver
12m. ozs.

Precarious
But despite this growth the
benefits of an expanding
economy have been retained in
the hands of a small group of
people. The lot of much of the
rest of the population is pre-
carious. The principal headline
on Monday of last week in El
Caribe, the strongly Establish-
ment daily of Santo Domingo,
was "Half Dominicans esti-
mated to be going hungry."

There followed a report on a
seminar held in the Autonomous
University of Santo Domingo
in which it was shown that
nearly half the population of

the country consumed only
half the calories and proteins
it needed and that more than
half all Dominicans were
dangerously undernourished.
The facts arrived at by
Dominican experts are amply
backed up in a detailed study by
a U.S. Government health
mission which was published
earlier this year. The situation
of hunger, it remarked, made it
"hardly surprising that the
death rate among Dominican
pre-school children is 17 times
higher than that of children of
the same age group in the
United States" and it added,
"children are often so small
that it is difficult to guess
accurately their age."

The problem of hunger is
bound up with that of unemploy-
ment. According to the Secre-
tariat of the Dominican Presi-
dency, as quoted in another
extensive foreign study of the
economy, "unemployment and
underemployment expressed as
units of unemployment is esti-
mated at 40 per cent of the
active labour force."

This year hunger and un-
employment have been made
much worse by drought condi-
tions which have not only
shrivelled crops but also de-
prived the Republic of the
energy it was counting on from
its hydroelectric installations.

But the drought, as Domini-
can research and the inquiries
of the International Labour
Organisation's World Employ-
ment Programme show, has not
been the main cause of these
twin evils which have deeper
and more chronic causes rooted

in the social structure of the
country. To accompany the chronic
hunger and chronic unemploy-
ment there has more recently
been an upsurge in a number
of anti-social activities. By
declaring as he did recently
that corruption stopped "at the
door of my office" President
Balaguer implicitly confirmed
the impression abroad in the
country that there has been a
growing tide of bribery and
peculation at the higher levels
of society involving even well
known figures within the admin-
istration. It must be emphasised
that Dr. Balaguer lives modestly
and without the showy luxury of
Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas
Trujillo, the Dominican dictator
whom he served for so many
years till his assassination in
1961, but at the same time he
has taken no action which would
reassure those who suspect mis-
use of government funds.

Rightly or wrongly the impres-
sion is rife that corruption is a
part of the political system and
serves to enrich and soothe
those who might otherwise be
political embarrassments.

Equally pervasive is the im-
pression that the Dominican
Republic has become something
of a home for the U.S. Mafia.
Allegations of its excursions
into gambling rackets, hotel
keeping and the narcotics trade
are difficult to substantiate, but
the frequent business visits to
the Republic of well-known
figures with connections with
the U.S. underworld are proven
facts.

But the state of Dominican
society to-day must be of more

than local interest. It must
colour any discussion of Latin
American politics and in
particular of any appraisal of
the relations of the U.S. with
its immediate neighbours.

The accession to power of Dr.
Balaguer, his continuance in
office since then and the current
state of the Republic are closely
linked with the U.S. interven-
tion in 1965. In that year
Washington, fearful of the re-
formist aspirations of a group
of officers and civilians who
were seeking to put back into
power President Juan Bosch,
the legitimately elected leader
of the country who had been
turned out of office by a coup
in 1963, sent the Marines in.
The constitutional movement
was crushed, effective
democracy snuffed out and Dr.
Balaguer eventually installed.

Wholehearted
In his study of recent Domini-
can-U.S. relations Professor
Frank Moya of the Madre y
Maestra Catholic University
underlines the wholehearted
way in which Dr. Balaguer was
supported by Washington from
the moment of his accession.
"When Joaquin Balaguer be-
came president in June 1966,"
he writes, "the Dominican
Government was totally domi-
nated by some 400 American
consultants who were working
in all levels of public adminis-
tration. The military was prac-
tically under the control of an
American mission of 65 men;
the Ministry of Agriculture had
to work under the presence of

some 45 American technicians;
the National Police and other
security agencies of the State
were advised by about 15 Ameri-
can experts in question of
public security..."

Professor Moya goes on to
estimate that between 1965 and
1973 the U.S. poured a total of
\$344m. into a country whose
population did not top 4m.
until 1970. During the 1966-70
period he suggests that 32 per
cent of revenues were derived
from U.S. economic aid and the
U.S. sugar quota. To this direct
aid must be added the \$1bn.
of private foreign capital, the
bulk of it from North America,
which went into the economy
between 1966 and 1971.

The relative lack of success
that Dr. Balaguer has had in
creating a healthy society
during his past nine years in
office must, because of the close
co-operation he has enjoyed with
Washington, also call into
question the effectiveness of
U.S. policy in the Dominican
Republic over the past decade.

While it is true that the
Republic presents no direct
threat to U.S. interests such as
President Lyndon Johnson
feared it might when he ordered
the 1965 invasion, the spectacle
of a half starving, half unem-
ployed Dominican Republic ten
years after the event is the
poorest advertisement for the
policies followed by successive
U.S. administrations and Dr.
Balaguer acting together.

Nor does it seem that the new
joint strategy for development
being worked out by Washing-
ton and Dr. Balaguer will bring

BASIC STATISTICS

Area	18,704 sq. miles
Population	4.78m.
GNP (1974)	2,970m. pesos
TRADE 1974	
Imports (f.o.b.)	673m. pesos
Exports (f.o.b.)	637m. pesos
Imports from U.K.	\$6.4m.
Exports to U.K.	\$10.6m.

Currency: Pesos (U.S.)
£1 = 2.38 pesos

any rapid betterment of con-
ditions. The drive towards rapid
adoption of birth control in the
Republic (it is being planned
to increase the 94 birth control
clinics now operating to 181 by
the beginning of next year) is,
on the admission of the
strategists who planned it, not
guaranteed to produce signifi-
cant results.

In the opinion of many it is
high time for Washington to
suggest and a Dominican
government to introduce new
policies like genuine land re-
form and effective taxation
which would modify the present
structure of society for the
benefit of the majority and help
to ensure that so many Domini-
cans do not spend their time in
hunger and idleness. It would
also be good for legitimate
business.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Latin America Correspondent

"A new era for an old island."

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SATURDAY REVIEW

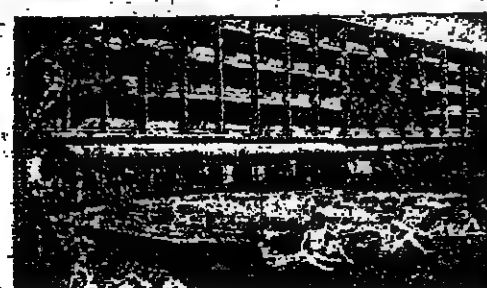


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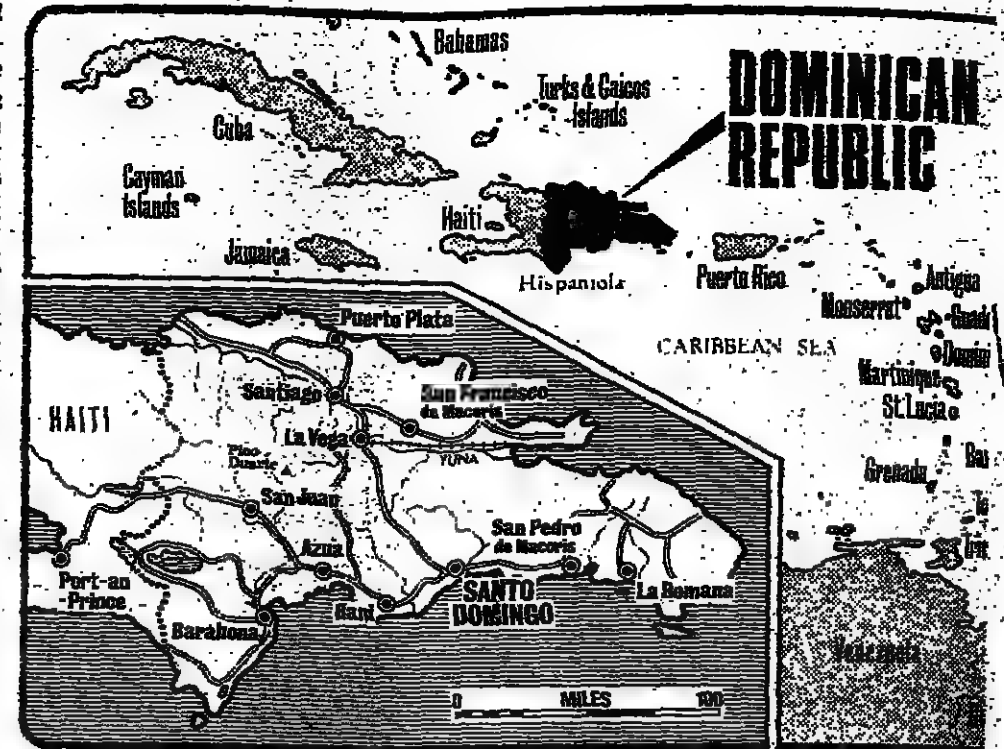
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Artificial aids to the economy

By dint of massive aid and investment the U.S. has restarted the growth of the economy which it halted during the 1965 invasion. One billion dollars of private investment and \$350m. of direct transfers to the Balaguer Government from Washington have caused the Republic to expand fast. Over the past five years the GDP has increased on average 10.6 per cent a year and last year the rate was a very acceptable 8.8 per cent. A building boom and continued demand from the government for public works pushed up the growth of the construction industry in 1974 to 12.6 per cent, though agriculture barely kept ahead of the growth of the population, managing to expand by no more than 3.3 per cent.

Despite a fast growth rate for industry and mining the Dominican Republic is very predominantly a rural agricultural economy with slightly over half the population living on the land which provides about three quarters of exports.



Export

The agricultural sector is highly export oriented so that last year nearly 20 per cent of its import bill went on food imports. Despite some official attempts to get farmers growing the staple foods Dominicans eat, the pull of the export markets has been strong at a time when international food prices, and in particular the international sugar price, have been high.

Last year 1.3m. short tons of sugar were produced, more than twice as much as was harvested in the invasion year of 1965 and the sugar could have been sold on the U.S. market for nearly 30 cents a pound c.i.f. New York, four times the price of 1966 on the U.S. market and more than 15 times the 1966 world price.

It has therefore been the case that anyone who could grow sugar latterly has been growing it. High prices for meat have also induced many land owners unable to grow sugar cane to take to cattle and pigs. Rosario gold and silver operations which have grown from nearly 30 per cent in value since the end of the 1960s, much of metal this year. Rosario 275,000 acres in the West, the Republic is expected in its production of biggest single sugar export. The Republic is already involved in the La Romana area, the Hispaniola in the Santo Domingo. The increasing export of Dominican exports in fact that they tripled between 1970 and 1974, meant that there was surplus in 1973 and 1974 the country just to sustain the record of trade accounts fell at \$13.4m. in the red. The blame on the fact of \$114m. Though the conditions are hitting hard and need more big imports of for still possible that the Republic will be back black again this year (trade account).

Ambitious plans for tourism

A COUNTRY that in the past 15 years has known a brutal dictatorship, a presidential assassination, a military coup d'etat, a four-month civil war, a 15-month U.S. military occupation and sporadic left-wing guerilla activity hardly springs to mind as the ideal spot for a quiet holiday in the sun.

But despite the unnecessary display of heavily-armed soldiers and police on the streets of Santo Domingo, the Republic is hoping that its past decade of relative stability and its extensive natural resources will soon win it a share of the lucrative Caribbean tourist market.

The thinking behind the decision to give priority to tourism in the country's general development strategy is sound: the country has a rather shaky international reputation which could be amended by playing good host to foreign visitors and by clever promotion; tourists can make a significant contribution to the country's balance of payments; awareness of the Dominican Republic through tourism may attract the attention of foreign investors; and the labour-intensive tourist industry can help, both directly and through its multiplier effect on services, to reduce the country's chronic problem of unemployment.

The Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, does have considerable tourist potential, although so far it possesses little in the way of tourist facilities. Perhaps the main point is that it is one hour's flying time from Miami and only three hours from New York. In other words, it is within easy striking distance of the U.S. eastern seaboard and it is already well connected by air. Lake Enriquillo, which lies below sea-level and is inhabited by crocodiles, can be reached. Going north, Santiago, the second largest city in the country, is two hours' driving time away, while the resort of Puerto Plata is just one hour further. To the east, the beach resort of Boca Chica is one hour away and La Romana another hour beyond that.

The city of Santo Domingo also has its attractions. Thanks to the efforts of a small group of architects and the support of President Balaguer, an ambitious programme has been under way to restore the houses and streets of the city that were familiar to such colonial adven-

turers as Columbus, Cortes, Pizarro, Balboa, Alvarado and Fray Bartolome de las Casas. Much still has to be done, but the transformation is already apparent. The ghosts of the conquistadores have yet to appear, but the prostitutes and the vagabonds have been evicted.

At Boca Chica, conveniently close to the international airport east of Santo Domingo, one of the Government's tourist development projects will aim to serve weekend visitors from the capital as well as foreign tourists. This project is still under study, although the Inter-American Development Bank has expressed willingness to lend \$15.5m. towards the \$22m. final cost of the resort. A number of houses will be demolished in what is now a sleepy fishing village in order to make way for large first-class hotels.

The initial plan is for the Government to launch tourist projects in three areas, while other regions will be developed privately or left to a second stage of the programme. In Santo Domingo itself, the Government has been promoting the construction of new hotels, and several are being completed this year.

Small

The Dominican Republic is of course small enough for most of the country to be within reach of Santo Domingo. Going west, San Cristobal, the birthplace of General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, is just 30 minutes' further along the same highway. Lake Enriquillo, which lies below sea-level and is inhabited by crocodiles, can be reached. Going north, Santiago, the second largest city in the country, is two hours' driving time away, while the resort of Puerto Plata is just one hour further. To the east, the beach resort of Boca Chica is one hour away and La Romana another hour beyond that.

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Sugar boom lingers on

D SUGAR prices may have dropped, but the sugar boom in the Dominican Republic is still going strong. The country's sugar harvest was sold at a year's high price, and the result, despite a severe drought, has cut back production by around 10 per cent. As is so often the case with sugar, the Republic's production has varied wildly over the past 15 years. In 1960, for example, output reached 1.225m. short tonnes, fell to 642,514 tonnes in 1965 and climbed again to 1.177m. tonnes in 1970.

Last year it topped 1.516m. tonnes and this year it may not exceed 1.2m. tonnes. Combined with price changes, this has meant chronic instability for the country's trade figures, which have swung between red and black depending on sugar export levels and prices. Nevertheless, sugar has rarely accounted for less than 50 per cent. of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Of the 16 mills operating to-day, 12 that became the property of General Trujillo during his dictatorship are now owned by the Government and run by the State Sugar Council (CEA). Three mills owned by the Vicini family survived the Trujillo take-over and are still run independently, while the La Romana mill was bought from the South Puerto Rico Sugar Company by the U.S. conglomerate, Gulf and Western, in 1967, and is the only mill in foreign hands. All the mills own cane-fields,

although some 8,000 independent farmers also sell their cane to the mills. Of last year's output of 1.3m. tonnes, 65 per cent.—848,700 tonnes—came from the CEA's mills, 25.2 per cent. from La Romana and 8.8 per cent. from the Vicini mills. Assisted by the National Sugar Institute (Inazucar), which is in charge of marketing the product, the CEA is therefore in a strong position to dominate the industry. The Government mills, on the other hand, suffer from high costs and less efficiency than the private mills, particularly La Romana. For example, while La Romana has invested heavily in increasing yields per acre and installing new mills and generating equipment, the CEA mills are using machinery which in some cases dates back half a century. In addition, trains take the cane to La Romana, while everything from carts to donkeys carry it to the CEA mills. The Vicini family is also now experimenting with Australian mechanical cane-cutting machinery.

Through a recent agreement between the CEA and Gulf and Western, however, the Government is trying to tap some of the modern technology being imported by the private firms by establishing a mixed venture to produce all the spare parts needed by the sugar mills, thus saving not only foreign exchange but also time often wasted while waiting for spare parts to arrive from abroad.

The areas under cane have increased steadily over the past few years, although they still do not exceed 10 per cent. of all available land. This year, for example, the cane plantations increased by 30 per cent. to over 250,000 hectares and this would have been reflected in a sharp

rise in output had drought not intervened. To achieve the medium-term objective of increasing production to 2m. tons per annum by 1980, plantations must probably expand by a further 100,000 hectares. But one serious obstacle is the shortage of cane-cutters. Despite the high level of urban and rural unemployment, Dominicans regard cane-cutting as the work of slaves and thus below the dignity of independent citizens. It is a hard job and the conditions under which cane-cutters work and live are often grim.

Peasants

As a result, since the turn of the century the tradition has been to import poor peasants from neighbouring Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Republic, to cut the harvest. Officially, between 10,000 and 15,000 are allowed into the country each year for the six or seven-month harvest, and officially too, they are meant to return at the end of the season. But in practice many Haitians enter illegally or stay on illegally because no matter how bad the conditions in the sugar plantations, they can earn more money in the Republic in one year than they could in five years at home.

Consequently, despite memories of the massacre of between 10,000 and 20,000 Haitians on orders from General Trujillo in 1937, the Haitians keep coming and the Haitian population keeps growing. Most Dominicans who are pure blacks are of Haitian descent, although they invariably integrate into the Republic within a generation.

The reluctance of Dominicans to work in the cane-fields is therefore creating a serious long-term social problem for the Dominican Government. With the Dominican economy growing rapidly while the Haitian economy stagnates and rural poverty grows, Haitian migration to the east is bound to increase. And if the Dominican Government wishes to increase sugar production, it is also bound to allow more Haitian cane-cutters to enter the country.

In order to limit Haitian migration and cut into the country's unemployment figures, the Government has therefore launched a programme to improve conditions for cane-cutters and thus encourage Dominicans to work in the plantations. The tax system should stimulate this, since when the world price of sugar is over 20 cents per pound, 50 per cent. of profits have to be spent on investment in the industry and improvement of conditions for the workers. As the main employer of Haitians, this is principally the problem of the CEA, which has also initiated its own propaganda to convince Dominicans that it is not shameful to be a cane-cutter. Complementing the plans to increase sugar production to an optimum of 2m. tonnes p.a., the government is also now turning to industrialising the product domestically. We sell sugar and cocoa to the U.S. and buy their chocolate," one Inazucar official told me, "and that's pretty ridiculous." At present only sugar, molasses and bagasse are being extracted from the cane, although Gulf and Western has its own furfural plant at La Romana.

For sugar producers, particularly those in the Western Hemisphere, the sales out-

look has been clouded by the elimination of the U.S. system of sugar quotas last year. The immediate impact was of course cushioned by the high prices prevailing last winter, but now many Latin American exporters are having to enter the world market for the first time. In 1974, for example, the Republic had a final quota of 934,000 tons, although, because of other commitments, only 784,758 tons were eventually exported to the U.S.

Mining operations

DOMINICAN Republic is mining as an important industry despite the Government's lack of interest in the sector. The regime's apparent reluctance has enabled foreign companies to invest in the mining sector, but the strict conditions imposed on parts of Latin America has also meant that the country is failing to benefit fully from the exploitation of its non-renewable resources.

Although the 50-year exploitation contract was signed in 1945, production began only in 1959. But the estimated current reserves of 16m. metric tons of bauxite should be exhausted before 1985. This year, in fact, the U.S. recession is expected to result in a drop in Alcoa's production to about 750,000 metric tons and 40 of the company's 365 employees have already been laid off, but exports should revive with recovery in the U.S. economy.

After Jamaica decided to squeeze greater revenue from the six foreign bauxite companies operating there last year, the Dominican Government followed suit and negotiations were opened with Alcoa in Santo Domingo. The result was a provisional one-year agreement under which the mine depletion allowance was eliminated, the tax and royalty paid by the company were increased and a supplementary royalty was imposed. As a result, the Government's revenue increased by about 50 per cent.—compared to the 300 per cent. rise obtained by Jamaica—to about \$10m. a year.

Rosario Dominicana, on the other hand, is the most recent entry into the country's mining sector, its first shipments of silver and gold taking place on April 30 this year. The company is a consortium of Rosario Resources of the U.S. (40 per cent.), Simplot Industries (40 per cent.) and the Dominican Central Bank (20 per cent.), although Rosario is the mine operator. An initial investment of \$45m. was made at Pueblo Viejo, near Bonao in the central highlands, and annual exports worth \$70m. are planned. This year's exports should total 240,000 ounces of gold and 720,000 ounces of silver, although capacity output of 350,000 ounces of gold and 1.5m. ounces of silver should be achieved in 1976 and will make the Republic the seventh largest gold producer in the world.

The giant of Dominican mining, however, is Falconbridge Dominicana, which has a \$200m. investment here in a ferro-nickel project near Bonao, the supervision of which is in the hands of the British company, Sir William Halcrow and Partners. A new international airport is being built there and the runway has been completed for the past year as work way at the seaside town of on the terminal crawls along. Puerto Plata is particularly known for the San Felipe fort which was built on rocks off the town in 1553.

The principal tourist development in private hands is being carried out by the U.S. conglomerate, Gulf and Western, at the town of La Romana, 120 km east of Santo Domingo. Gulf and Western first moved to La Romana in 1967 when it bought the huge sugar mill and 300,000 acres of land. The company then decided to convert the Old Bachelor's Residence into a 72-room hotel, which now also doubles up as the club for company executives. It is a hotel of unusual contrasts: the front looks directly on to the Caribbean, while the back stands close to the sugar mill with its chimneys and constant smell of molasses.

But the success of the government's two projects—at Boca Chica and Puerto Plata—will probably determine whether the country as a whole is to benefit from a tourist take-off in the next decade. One reassuring consideration is that both projects will be closely supervised by the international agencies that are making available financing. Private hotel chains are therefore more likely to be attracted to the projects in the knowledge that the infrastructure is not being built haphazardly. For such companies, there are added fiscal incentives, including a 100 per cent. exemption from income-tax and customs duties and partial exemption from construction taxes.

For the moment, however, there is no indication that the Government is dissatisfied with its lot, although it would be no surprise if it were eventually to demand that the company either pay tax on its operating profit before interest on its debt is covered or simply pay a higher rate of tax on its net earnings. In either case, it would compensate for the absence of dividends on the Government's 9.5 per cent. share of the capital.

MS

so far the Government under President Balaguer reacted no bureaucratic or capable of monitoring and stimulating growth of mining. The Ministry and Commerce's Department of Mining is an aging woodframe, where endless forms are in but apparently no one takes. The head of the ministry is a less than competent appointee who is uninterested in mining. His young assistants lack the experience to use the activities of the large foreign concerns. The result is not only are the most Dominican mining engineers and geologists being lured by the mining companies; the latter are the only source of information on the country's mining sector. At present, only bauxite, nickel, silver and gold are being produced and sold by the three foreign firms. Another 15 concessions have been granted for the mining of zinc, manganese, iron ore, mercury and clay, although prospecting is not taking place in all 16 since some of the concessions were obtained for private purposes. Technicians currently discussing the possibility of exploring for oil, which is the oldest mining in the Republic, and other companies began to mine in the past three years. The main target of this criticism because it was originally signed by the dictatorship of Gen. Leonidas Trujillo. International standards, in-pit mine at Cabo Rojo in south-west coast is a operation. About 1m. tons of bauxite ore, with a content of 45 to 48 per cent. are shipped from Rojo to Point Comfort, each year.

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Tourism

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Boca Chica looks out into the Bay of Andres where the green-blue water is clear and ideal for underwater fishing. The other major development, eventually expected to cost about \$80m., is already under way at the seaside town of Puerto Plata on the northern coast. The country's northern beaches are the most beautiful and, if the Puerto Plata project is successful, development will continue east along the coast. The World Bank has lent the Dominican Republic \$39m. for this project, the design and

supervision of which is in the hands of the British company, Sir William Halcrow and Partners. A new international airport is being built there and the runway has been completed for the past year as work way at the seaside town of on the terminal crawls along. Puerto Plata is particularly known for the San Felipe fort which was built on rocks off the town in 1553.

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Price boost for quality milk producers

Our Commodities Staff

BY PETER MULLIN

OVERNIGHT investigation of a possible loophole in EEC regulations enabling traders to profit of £1 a ton in the milk market has been called for yesterday by Mr. Ron Thomas, Labour MP for Bristol North West. He made his allegation after dockers at Avonmouth, Bristol, claimed that 900 tons of grain was to be loaded on to a ship which had unloaded 34 hours earlier. The grain was unloaded, and the ship was told to go to Italy. A very confusing situation was created, said Mr. Thomas. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Peter G. Hunt, said that he was not aware of the situation. He said that he was not aware of the situation. He said that he was not aware of the situation.

AN INCREASE in the premium price which producers of quality milk receive for their milk was announced by the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday. They will get an extra 1p a pint when the next rise in retail prices comes into force in a few weeks. Although the date has not yet been announced, the Government has stated already that retail prices would rise by another 1p a pint this autumn. When that happens, ordinary pasteurised milk will rise to 5p a pint and "gold top", now costing 5p 10p, to 10p. The 10p premium will remain for six months, after which the Ministry will review the position. About six per cent of liquid milk sold in England and Wales is "gold top" (Channel Islands or South Devon quality milk). Very little is sold in Scotland.

The Ministry's announcement follows representations by the Milk Marketing Board, the Quality Milk Producers' Organisation and the Dairy Trade Federation. They wanted of quality milk supplies. Producers were not given a return that covered extra costs. Although it is a punt would

appear to give producers an extra 4p a gallon, they will receive only about 3p a gallon extra, MMB and QMP estimate. The rest will go towards increases in distribution costs and as an addition to the reserve fund, used to make up premium losses due to seasonal fluctuations in supply.

Special problems Recognition of the quality milk producers' special problems and the increase in the premium was described as a "step in the right direction" by Mr. M. Beatty, MMB Director of Marketing. But the MMB and QMP are unhappy that the Ministry has not named the date on which the higher price will come into effect particularly as delay at this time of the year can influence valuable producers' herd management and breeding decisions.

The Ministry's decision to increase the premium is further evidence, however, of growing sympathy in Whitehall for milk producers' demands for more money. It comes on top of the statement by Mr. Fred Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, that he

was discussing the possibility of a further increase in dairy farmers' returns with his Cabinet colleagues, and another by Mrs. Shirley Williams, the Prices Secretary, conceding that producers should receive more.

Demands for an early announcement of the Government's intentions will be made tomorrow when coach loads of farmers from all over Britain and representatives from Scotland and Northern Ireland attend a mass rally in Central Hall, Westminster, to protest against the Government's livestock industry, and the crisis facing the whole agricultural industry.

A deputation of Welsh farmers yesterday saw the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr. John Morris, to seek his backing for a prompt injection of Government cash into the industry. Mr. David Carey-Evans, chairman of the NFU Welsh Council, who led the deputation, said they would be "penny wise, pound foolish" if the Government tried to keep food prices inflated by keeping down the producers' price for milk.

Weak £ lifts metal markets

By John Edwards, Commodities Editor

WEAKNESS of sterling against the dollar brought sharp price rises on the London Metal Exchange yesterday, notably for copper. Cash wirebars climbed by £11.5, to £387.75 a tonne.

Cash lead also gained £5.5, to £17.5, and cash tin £3.75, to £37.5. Cash tin was unchanged, however, following a sharp dip in the Persian market overnight that virtually wiped out the gain made over the weekend.

The rise in copper and lead was attributed almost entirely to the latest fall in the value of sterling, although there were also reports of some improved buying interest for copper in the U.S. Profit-taking sales at the higher levels were self-absorbed.

In the zinc market, there were reports that producers might not be considering raising the official European price from £380 a tonne to a compromise figure of £390, instead of the £400 previously suggested.

It is known that the French producers are anxious to raise the price to compensate for the decline in the value of sterling, but the British and German producers are doubtful whether an increase in the price of zinc will be justified by the continued lack of consumer demand.

COVENT GARDEN CHARGES PLAN OPPOSED

Financial Times Reporter

TOTAL OPPOSITION to the proposed commercial vehicle entry charges to be imposed at London's Covent Garden market at Nine Elms was expressed by the National Farmers' Union yesterday.

It decided to maintain its opposition to the charges, despite the full explanation about why they were being introduced given to a sub-committee by the Market Authority's general manager, Mr. Colin Allen. The sub-committee found that "despite the undoubted problems surrounding the Authority's financing, introduction of the charges would either tend to divert produce to other markets, thus threatening the viability of Covent Garden, or create an unfair precedent which other wholesale markets might follow."

A story of disaster —and now mildew

BY DAVID RICHARDSON

U.K. SUGAR beet crops have been struck by an almost unbelievable loss of yield and quality of disaster in the last two years. And now they are suffering from a widespread attack of powdery mildew.

Crops throughout the main growing areas have shown signs of mildew since the beginning of August and continuing drought and high temperatures have encouraged the spread of the disease, effects of which may or may not be serious.

Powdery mildew is not unknown in this country, low levels of infection having been recorded on sugar beet in most years. It has not been thought to have a significant effect on yield and little work has been done to control methods. But this year's attack is particularly severe.

It is well known that sugar beet leaves, which lose their chlorophyll through infection with virus, are unable to photosynthesise and convert sunlight into sugar. It is reasonable to suppose that leaves covered with powdery mildew will suffer in a similar manner.

Recent evidence from the U.S. has suggested that severe powdery mildew can reduce yield by up to 25 per cent. Although there is no firm evidence yet that this will be repeated in Britain, it has prompted a flurry of activity at Broom's Barn, the sugar beet experimental farm

near Bury St. Edmunds, to ascertain the seriousness of the disease and whether chemicals exist to control it.

These efforts have, I understand, met with some success and may lead to positive advice for the control of powdery mildew in future years. But it is too late to do anything this season.

Another problem for sugar beet growers is wild hybrid bolters, which have apparently been building up for some time but only came into the open this year. This is the sugar beet equivalent of wild oats, and is potentially even more serious.

Wild bolters Sugar beet are biennial: they normally produce leaves and a root in the first year and do not seed until the second year. But some plants, however, produce a seed head in the first year.

This means that a lot of the energy and, therefore, the weight of those roots goes towards the making of seed. As the seed stalks are tall and tough, seed beet or "bolters" are difficult to top and harvest.

Evidence is growing that by wild bolters—which produce more only the size of a pencil and in the seedling stage cannot be distinguished from good plants—are increasing fast on beet growing farms. In some cases they could force farmers to change their farming policy

Arrival of the "rogue" plants in this country has been traced back to the 1950s, and the introduction of mono-germ seeds. Much of the breeding and development of mono-germ was done in Northern Italy. It is now thought that accidental cross-pollination with wild beet which abounds in that area must have occurred.

Ironically, the most forward thinking farmers, who were first to use the new seed, are worst affected. A survey this year revealed that 25 per cent of crops had a significant infestation although not all were at serious levels.

Like wild oats, they are easily sown but extremely difficult to eliminate. Each plant is estimated to produce about 180 seeds which are capable of remaining viable in the soil for at least six years and perhaps up to 12 years.

Farmers with fields which carry a serious infestation are being advised to give up growing beet in those fields for several years. Others will be urged to "rogue" every year—not a happy prospect for growers after what will inevitably be the second consecutive disastrous beet crop.

Many were reluctant to plant their full acreage this year and, in spite of a drip feed of promises of extra cash for the 1975 crop, the British Sugar Corporation was unable to achieve its target of 500,000 acres.

Crop prospects still disappointing

BY RICHARD MOONEY

BEST TEST results published by the British Sugar Corporation yesterday tend to bear out the Corporation's U.K. crop forecast released earlier this month. But some trade sources still regard the Corporation's forecast as optimistic.

The BSC has confirmed, meanwhile, that it will adopt a flexible time-table for opening flexible processing plants because of difficult harvesting conditions expected in some areas. It said that, in many beet growing areas, the ground has been baked hard in the drought and there has been not enough rain to soften it. Opening dates from October 8 were announced for the 560,000-ton crop—the

worst for years—this figure represents a sharp cut from the August prediction of 800,000 tons and original hopes of 900,000 tons. But some trade sources still regard the Corporation's forecast as optimistic.

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ten of the factories yesterday. But the Corporation stressed that these may have to be changed to fit in with actual harvesting conditions. Reuter reports from Bonn: The average weight and sugar content of beet in West Germany is still well below that of the corresponding time last year, according to the Sugar Industry Association.

Average weight in last week's test was 702 grams (759 last year), with sugar content at 15 per cent (15.6). The average number of beet per hectare was 86,800 (86,400), while the area under beet this year is nearly 487,000 hectares, or 16 per cent more than in 1974.

Seal pelts import in sought

Our Commodities Editor

FOR BRITAIN to ban the import of seal pelts from South America because of the inhumane slaughter was made yesterday by Mr. Whiting, executive director of the Sealers' Without a Trust.

Whiting said he had just returned from giving evidence to a sub-committee of the House of Commons to oppose a proposed bill to ban the import of seal pelts from South America. He said that, in evidence, he had said that the seal industry would step up efforts to use sales to "European countries."

Whiting claimed that, as a marine biologist, he personally witnessed the cruel and excruciatingly slow infliction in South America of seal slaughtering expeditions.

S. Africa raises wool 'floor'

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

A RISE in the minimum reserve price for South African wool to bring it into line with the Australian Wool Corporation "floor" level, following the 17.5 per cent devaluation of the Rand, was announced by the South African Wool Board in Pretoria yesterday.

The move was welcomed by the Australian Agriculture Minister, Mr. Ken Wiatt, in Canberra. He claimed that the adjustment would reinforce confidence in the "floor" price and have a strengthening effect on the international wool market. He pointed out that the three main wool exporting countries—Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—were adopting a co-operative approach to wool pricing policies. New Zealand had also adjusted its wool "floor" price to the Australian level when the New Zealand dollar was devalued in August. The Australian Wool Corporation announced, meanwhile, that it had reduced its offer to the wool buyers of Australia to 100,000 bales in the six weeks to November, reducing the quantity to be offered from 663,000 bales

to 518,000. A spokesman said it was considered desirable to vary, in some cases reduce, offer quantities available between selling weeks.

All of yesterday's Australian sales at Newcastle, Geelong, Albury and Fremantle were cancelled to reschedule the offerings and give the market time to consider the South African devaluation.

Uncertainty Despite the move by South Africa, there is still considerable uncertainty in the wool trade, discouraging buying interest, as a result of persistent forecasts that Australia is also likely to devalue its currency soon, which would bring another upheaval in the wool pricing structure.

Consumers appear to be in no hurry to restock in view of the failure of the recent rise in wool prices to be sustained, possibly because of further uncertainty created by bankruptcies in Japan—the key buyer of Australian wool. There is also increasing evidence that the "floor" price

at auction is being bypassed, by private deals between buyers and growers, often at lower prices than the public market.

One bright note from Australia's point of view, however, is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's prediction of a significant fall in U.S. domestic wool output this year's short wool output put at 115.2m. lbs. greasy wool, 10 per cent down on 1974 and 20 per cent lower than 1973.

In contrast, the 1975-76 South African clip, according to unofficial estimates, is expected to rise by 2 per cent on last year's output.

The South African Wool Board pointed out that the upward adjustment in its reserve price for 21 micron wool would put it in line with the Rand devaluation. The latest estimate put the wool price at 100,000 bales, including freight charges, had also to be taken into consideration. Australia would spend \$A18.2m on wool and sheep research programmes in 1975-76, compared with \$A13.2m in 1974-75, said Mr. Ken Wiatt in Canberra.

COMMODITY MARKET REPORTS AND PRICES

BASE METALS

CONTINUED evidence of weakness was seen in the base metal market yesterday, with copper and zinc prices falling. Copper fell by 1.5p to 115.5p, and zinc by 1.5p to 115.5p. Lead fell by 1.5p to 115.5p, and tin by 1.5p to 115.5p.

STEEL prices were also weak, with mild steel falling by 1.5p to 115.5p, and heavy steel by 1.5p to 115.5p. Iron ore prices were also weak, with iron ore falling by 1.5p to 115.5p.

COAL prices were also weak, with coal falling by 1.5p to 115.5p. Oil prices were also weak, with oil falling by 1.5p to 115.5p.

GRAIN prices were also weak, with grain falling by 1.5p to 115.5p. Cotton prices were also weak, with cotton falling by 1.5p to 115.5p.

COFFEE prices were also weak, with coffee falling by 1.5p to 115.5p. Tea prices were also weak, with tea falling by 1.5p to 115.5p.

SUGAR prices were also weak, with sugar falling by 1.5p to 115.5p. Rubber prices were also weak, with rubber falling by 1.5p to 115.5p.

WOOL prices were also weak, with wool falling by 1.5p to 115.5p. Hides prices were also weak, with hides falling by 1.5p to 115.5p.

MEAT/VEGETABLES prices were also weak, with meat and vegetables falling by 1.5p to 115.5p.

Commodity	Unit	Price
Copper	100 lbs	115.5
Zinc	100 lbs	115.5
Lead	100 lbs	115.5
Tin	100 lbs	115.5
Mild Steel	100 lbs	115.5
Heavy Steel	100 lbs	115.5
Iron Ore	100 lbs	115.5
Coal	100 lbs	115.5
Oil	100 lbs	115.5
Grain	100 lbs	115.5
Cotton	100 lbs	115.5
Coffee	100 lbs	115.5
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COMPANY NOTICES

ZAMBIA COPPER INVESTMENTS LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda)

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of members of Zambia Copper Investments Limited will be held at the Bank of Bermuda, 100, Broad Street, Hamilton, Bermuda, at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 14th September, 1975 for the following business:

- To receive and consider the statement of accounts and the reports of the directors and of the auditors for the year ended 30th June 1975.
- To elect directors.
- To fix the remuneration of the auditors for the past year and to appoint auditors for the ensuing year.
- Special business: To consider, if deemed fit, to pass with or without modification, the resolution required by the laws of Bermuda, that the following resolution be adopted, namely: "That the company be wound up voluntarily in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1948, and that the directors be authorised to do all such acts and things as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the said Act."

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead, on a poll, to vote in his stead.

By order of the Board
Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited
D. H. J. Fennell

For Office:
Hamilton, Bermuda
14 September, 1975

READY MIXED CONCRETE LIMITED

7% Bonds 1987 FF 80,000,000

Notice is hereby given to bondholders of the above Bonds that the amount redeemable on October 25, 1975 i.e. FF 1,600,000 was paid in full.

Amount outstanding: FF 75,200,000

Trustee: The Law Debenture Corporation Limited

Principal Paying Agent: Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg

By order of the Board
Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited
D. H. J. Fennell

For Office:
Hamilton, Bermuda
14 September, 1975

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMMISSION

ESCOM 1975/1986 8 1/2% SFS 20,000,000

Notice is hereby given to bondholders of the above Bonds that the amount redeemable on December 1st, 1975, i.e. \$1,500,000 was paid in full.

Amount outstanding: \$45,120,000

By order of the Board
Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited
D. H. J. Fennell

For Office:
Hamilton, Bermuda
14 September, 1975

THE TRUSTEE FINANCIAL SERVICES

Notice is hereby given to bondholders of the above Bonds that the amount redeemable on December 1st, 1975, i.e. \$1,500,000 was paid in full.

Amount outstanding: \$45,120,000

By order of the Board
Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited
D. H. J. Fennell

For Office:
Hamilton, Bermuda
14 September, 1975

FINANCIAL TIMES

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HOTELS

HOTELS & CATERERS

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"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 2

Jobs Bill defeat on 'conscience' clause

BY JOHN HUNT

THE GOVERNMENT suffered a heavy defeat on the Employment Protection Bill in the Lords yesterday when the Liberals successfully passed an amendment giving employees the right to refuse to belong to a trade union on the grounds of conscience.

The amendment, supported by the Conservatives and some Labour peers, was approved by a majority of 67 against the Government (121-54) during the committee stage of the Bill. There was also a further defeat later on another section.

If the peers continue to amend important Government Bills at an increasing rate and the Government seeks to restore the changes in the Commons, the Cabinet will clearly be under heavy pressure in completing its legislative timetable by the end of the "spill-over period" of the present session, which begins on October 13.

Already the Government has plans to extend this period to about a month, but to prolong it even further would produce difficulties over the opening of the next Parliamentary session—particularly if the Chancellor of the Exchequer were to decide that an autumn Budget and a new Finance Bill were necessary.

The Lords' defeat of the Government on the Bill are only a taste of Conservative peers' intentions to amend even more controversial Commons legislation, including the Submarine Pipelines Bill, the Community Land Bill and above all, the controversial Industry Bill establishing the National Enterprise Board.

There may also be a lengthy confrontation between the Government and the Lords, if no compromise can be reached, on recent Lords amendments to the Employment Bill dealing with the freedom of the Press. So far, Mr. Michael Foot, the Employment Secretary, has shown no signs of accepting Lord's amendments to the Bill.

Last night's amendment radically changes a section which has been the centre of much controversy inside and outside the Commons. As it stood, the paragraph in the Bill said that an employee should not have any action taken against him by his employer if he refused to belong to a union on the grounds of religious belief. Critics said that the wording was far too narrow and in practice would apply to very few people. The amendment strikes out the words "religious belief" and replaces them by the word "conscience".

The Government's other defeat came when an amendment of its own was voted down by a majority of 18 (49-22). This amendment would have made it possible to convert the present statutory joint industrial councils with wider powers to rule on remuneration, holidays and other terms of employment.

As a result of the defeat, the Government dropped a whole series of amendments designed to implement the change-over to statutory joint industrial councils.

Although not stated yesterday, it is understood the BAC Beechcraft aircraft is also being cancelled in favour of buying the U.S. McDonnell Douglas Sub-Harpoon anti-ship missile.

The British Aircraft Corporation's Hawk helicopter-borne anti-tank missile is also being cancelled in favour of buying the Franco-German anti-tank missile.

The Ministry of Defence also said yesterday that the RAF would get 15 Westland Sea King helicopters for search and rescue duties round the coast, in an order worth about £30m, including spares, for delivery in 1977 and 1978.

The missile decision, announced in the Lords yesterday by Lord Winterbottom, on behalf of the Secretary for Defence, caused some re-evaluation at both BAC and HSD factories at Stevenage and Hatfield, and perhaps also some redundancies at the latter, although he claimed that the consequences should not be too severe.

Both these ventures are likely to absorb much of the labour that will be released from Hawking and Beechcraft, and ease the strain on BAC.

But Lord Winterbottom admitted that ending Sub-Martel would cause problems for HSD. "Other projects which the company has in hand are unlikely to absorb all the design staff who will become available. Some loss of jobs is therefore unlikely to be avoidable," he said. About 300 design staff and other workers have been involved on Sub-Martel.

But the Government also recognises the danger of losing HSD's missile design capability, and it is planning talks with the company to fix the details of a new programme of research and development on future missile systems for the 1980s. No further details of this programme have been revealed.

A similar programme will be discussed with Marconi Space and Defence Systems, which has been engaged on the electronics aspects of the Sub-Martel, especially on the radar homing head for the missile.

Lord Winterbottom claimed that the development of Sea Skua would provide the Navy's frigates and destroyers with a strike capability stretching beyond the horizon. "It is the only weapon of its kind in the world and it has aroused keen interest in a number of foreign navies."

Commenting on the proposed purchase of the Milan anti-tank missile, Lord Winterbottom said it was the only missile available that met the requirements for a man-portable weapon for the infantry. It was already in service with the French and German armies.

In negotiations for its procurement, our aim will include the establishment of a full-scale production line in Britain and agreed arrangements for European collaboration on weapons of this kind in the future.

We shall also be aiming for a fair share of overseas sales of Milan. The Government's final decision on Milan will naturally be subject to the achievement of satisfactory terms.

So far as BAC is concerned, the Government is giving full support for the development of the Sea Skua helicopter-borne anti-ship missile, while efforts are also to be made to get licence production in Britain of the Franco-German Milan.

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U.K. to cancel two major guided weapons

BY MICHAEL DONNE, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE U.K. is to cancel two major guided weapons now under development by the aerospace industry, but instead weapons built in the U.S. and France and Germany if the terms are right.

The missiles involved are:

1. The submarine launched anti-ship Sub-Martel, under development by Hawker Siddeley Dynamics—being cancelled in favour of buying the U.S. McDonnell Douglas Sub-Harpoon anti-ship missile.
2. The British Aircraft Corporation's Hawk helicopter-borne anti-tank missile is also being cancelled in favour of buying the Franco-German anti-tank missile.

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Both these ventures are likely to absorb much of the labour that will be released from Hawking and Beechcraft, and ease the strain on BAC.

But Lord Winterbottom admitted that ending Sub-Martel would cause problems for HSD. "Other projects which the company has in hand are unlikely to absorb all the design staff who will become available. Some loss of jobs is therefore unlikely to be avoidable," he said. About 300 design staff and other workers have been involved on Sub-Martel.

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Cash projections for the market

THE LEX COLUMN

The stock market's capacity to absorb bad news was finally exhausted yesterday. Against a disturbing background of international currency turmoil, with sterling slumping to a trade-weighted depreciation "closing level" only exceeded on June 30, the impending anti-unemployment measures were bound to leave nerves frayed.

Meanwhile, Greenwell's Monetary Bulletin repeats its earlier warnings about the build-up of reserve assets in the banking system—drastically illustrated by the leap in the Treasury Bill issue—and suggests that August may turn out to have been the turning point of M3, the broadly based money supply. A similar argument is taken up by Phillips and Drew, who estimate that the growth of M3 is likely to pick up to the 15-20 per cent range over the next year or two.

The dilemma for those attempting to forecast future trends in the capital markets is that although institutional cash flows will be buoyant, the public sector's financial requirements will be tending to push up interest rates. Thus P and D expect that the current bullish forces in the long gilt market will tend to become cancelled out by the early part of 1976.

But Wood Mackenzie have arrived at a rather more favourable conclusion in applying a similar analysis to the equity market. The key point, they emerge is the growing importance of pension funds. Although their revenues of £1.54bn in 1974 were slightly less than the £1.61bn of insurance funds, the position will be reversed this year. And while insurance companies have lost faith in equities—with net disinvestment even in the first quarter of 1975 the pension funds have to take a much more positive view of equities because they can have scant hope of a real return in gilts.

So pension funds could put a net £1bn into equities in 1975, out of total institutional investment of £1.4bn. And that depending on the pace of rights issues (WM are keeping a wary eye on the clearing banks), would be enough on the brokers' assumptions to push prices substantially higher than at present. Even so, as a bull market this is likely to be a very muted affair.

That is understandable, if Mr. Denis Healey's remarks in "Newsweek" represent the

Index fell 9.8 to 334.9

TREASURY BILLS

Gross amount outstanding

£bn

£bn

£bn

£bn

£bn

£bn

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£bn

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£bn

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AIR

Amalgamated Investment Property has not yet revalued for 1974, admits that the 1974 figure for investment could fall "significantly" current values. Despite March, totalling £150, produced about a 10% book value, and the ability the least that is expected from a port which roughly two-thirds based on valuations in spring of 1973. Meanwhile, attributable losses of the balance-sheet of shareholders' funds dropped £102.5m, to £17m, higher at £1. At least capital costs have dropped sharply, £10m, but the 25% Paris development roughly 400,000 square due to be completed in few months. The debt gone, and the market of £21m, at 20% of £21m, below the 1973, facing up to a long-term.

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

See also Page 2

Weather

U.K. TO-DAY

BECOMING cloudy, with rain or drizzle in most areas. London, S.E. England, E. Anglia, Channel Isles

Mainly fair, sunny periods. Wind W. moderate. Max. 18C (64F). Cent. S. and S.W. England, S. Wales

Fair, sunny periods, becoming cloudy with occasional drizzle and hill fog. Wind W. moderate becoming S.W., fresh. Max. 18C (64F).

E. and W. Midlands,